



Vol. 1

OMNIBUS
EDITION

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

ASSASSINS

1



OMNIBUS

HERNANDEZ • GUNDERSON • HANSON • GONZALEZ

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS



Vince **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Teodoro **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#1

COVER A



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

ASSASSIN



Vince **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Teodoro **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#1

COVER B



Art by
Sotelo

The story so far...

They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with discipline, loyalty and often times violence, if necessary. They are the Executive Assistants.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

[LIFE AFTER DEATH]

PART 1 OF 3

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENCILS

JORDAN GUNDERSON

COLORS

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

JOSH REED



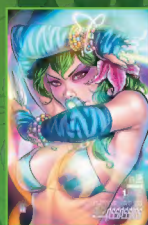
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B: DIRECT EDITION
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XINJIANG, CHINA.

WHEN I FIRST RECEIVED MY FLOWER NAME FROM MY HEADMASTER SHUJI AS A YOUNG GIRL, I CHERISHED THE MEANING OF THE LILY. IT SYMBOLIZED PURITY OF HEART AND VIRTUE.

AND VIRTUOUS I WAS... AT FIRST, I REIGNED AT THE TOP OF MY CLASS UNTIL, A FIERCE GIRL NAMED IRIS SHOWED UP

WHAT KIND OF FLOWER IS IT?*

DON'T TOUCH IT, DANDELION! IF THE HEADMASTER FINDS OUT, WE'LL BE WASHING THE CELLAR FLOOR FOR WEEKS!

SNACK

THEN, I LEARNED ABOUT FAILURE...

*TRANSLATED FROM MANDARIN.

BUT IT'S SO PRETTY!

IT DOESN'T MATTER. IT DOESN'T BELONG TO US. YOU KNOW THE RULES.

YES, YES-- I KNOW. THIEVERY IS A MARK OF WEAKNESS BLAH, BLAH, BLAH. BUT IT'S JUST A FLOWER, CAMELLIA!

IT BELONGS TO THE SCHOOL, JUST LIKE US. WE ARE THE PROPERTY OF THE HEADMASTER UNTIL OUR PURCHASE-- OR WOULD YOU RATHER END UP LIKE A FAILURE. LIKE BLOSSOM-- OR WORSE YET-- LILY?!

...I LEARNED ABOUT LOSS...

SHHH! CAMELLIA! IF THE HEADMASTER HEARS US SAY THAT NAME, SHE'LL WHIP US GOOD!

NOW YOU CARE ABOUT THE RULES.

C'MON. LET'S GET BACK BEFORE WE'RE IN EVEN MORE TROUBLE.

...BUT, MOST IMPORTANTLY...

SHINJUKU
DISTRICT,
JAPAN.

...I LEARNED
WHAT IT FEELS LIKE
TO BE DEAD.



HEY, GIRL!
WHY DON'T
YOU COME DOWN
OFF THAT STAGE
AND LET **ME** SHOW
YOU THE MEANING
OF A GOOD
TIME?*

THAT'S WHAT I HAD TO LEARN ON MY
OWN. WHAT THEY DON'T TEACH YOU IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMY.

HOW TO
SURVIVE ON YOUR
OWN-- ONCE YOU
ARE ALONE.

*TRANSLATED FROM
JAPANESE.

IT'S A WHOLE NEW WORLD AT
THAT POINT. ONE WE'RE FORCED
TO LEARN QUICKLY...

I'LL MAKE
YOU SCREAM FOR
THAT, GIRL!

...OR DIE.

YOU'RE
NOT THE
FIRST MAN
TO TRY.







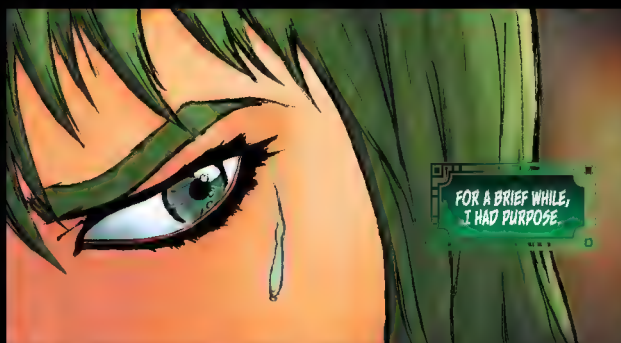


HE'S RIGHT.
I CAN'T HELP MYSELF. I
WOULDN'T EVEN KNOW
WHERE TO START.



AFTER I KILLED TAKED, I
TEAMED UP WITH IRIS. TOOK
DOWN SHUT AND EVENTUALLY
THAT PIECE OF SHIT POWER
MONGER VILLONE AS WELL.*

*SEE EA IRIS
VOLUME TWO
FOR DETAILS.



FOR A BRIEF WHILE,
I HAD PURPOSE.



NOW.



...THE DEMONS
OF MY PAST HAVE
RETURNED.



...AND TAKEN
WHAT'S LEFT OF
MY PRESENT.

TOKYO, JAPAN.

SHE'S IN THE
SHINJUKU DISTRICT,
WORKING AS A
DANCER.

YOU'VE
WITNESSED THIS
YOURSELF?

IN THE FLESH,
SIR. SHE TOOK OUT
A FEW MISBEHAVING
PATRONS LAST NIGHT
AS I SAT AND
WATCHED.

SHE SAW
YOUR FACE?
HAVE I TAUGHT YOU
NOTHING ABOUT
SURVEILLANCE
TACTICS?

IT WAS UNAVOIDABLE
MAZUTSU, I ASSURE YOU.
BUT I HAVE THE SITUATION
UNDER CONTROL. ALL OF
TAKEO'S ASSETS WILL BE
ELIMINATED-- INCLUDING
HER-- TRUST ME.

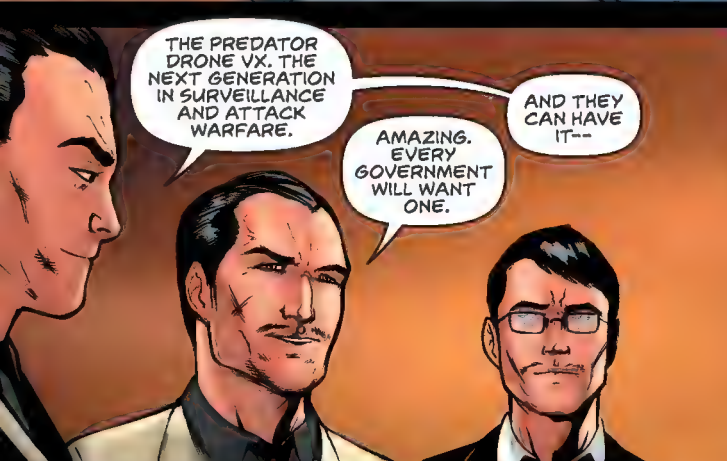
YOU KNOW
ME WELL ENOUGH
TO KNOW I TRUST
NO ONE.

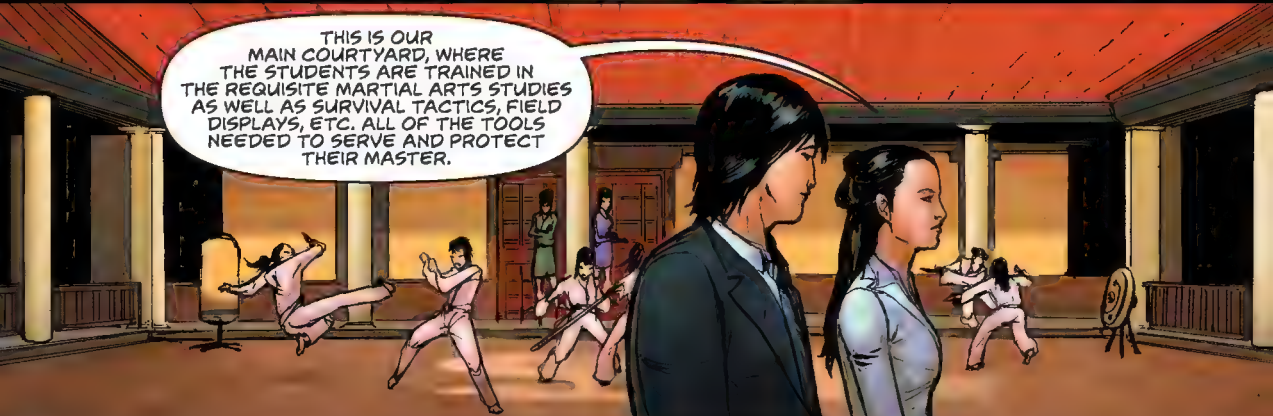
EXCELLENT.
NOW, COME, SEE
MY LATEST TOY.

WHATEVER
SHE KNOWS--
ENDS WITH HER
LIFE. UNDER-
STOOD?

DO NOT
UNDERESTIMATE
THE RESILIENCE OF
AN EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT. GET IT
DONE. AND DO IT
QUICKLY.

UNDERSTOOD.







DANDELION.
HERE-- NOW.



SHE IS PRONE TO
SUCCUMBING TO HER
NERVES AT THE MOMENT--
BUT WE TRUST SHE WILL GROW
INTO HER ROLE QUITE WELL.
YOUNG LADY, *WHAT* DO WE
SAY TO A GUEST OF
THE ACADEMY?

IT IS
AN HONOR...
SIR.



DO NOT BE AFRAID,
DANDELION. THAT IS
A WONDERFUL CHOICE
OF FLOWER TITLE. I'M
SURE YOU WILL GROW
TO HONOR IT WITH
EXCELLENCE.

UM...
THANK
YOU,
SIR.

VERY WELL,
DANDELION. YOU
MAY RETURN TO
YOUR ETIQUETTE
DRILLS.

SO, MR. TARVER, WE
ARE FULLY CAPABLE OF
SUSTAINING YOUR REQUISITE
NEEDS FOR AN EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT. MAY I SHOW
YOU TO OUR ELDER CLASS,
THE ONES CLOSER TO
GRADUATION?



ABSOLUTELY,
BUT FIRST, WOULD
YOU BE SO KIND AS TO
ELABORATE ON SOME OF
YOUR PAST PUPILS--
PRIMARILY THE TRANSFER
STUDENT ISSUED THE
MONIKER... LILY?



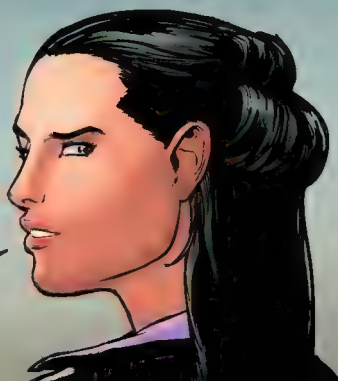
UH-- YES, OF
COURSE. IT'S TRAGIC REALLY,
NOT ALL OF OUR STUDENTS REACH
THE PRECIPITOUS HEIGHTS WE'VE SET
FORTH FOR THEM AS GOALS. SOME--
AS IN LILY'S CASE-- FAIL TO REACH SAID
AMBITION. WE WERE FORTUNATE TO
FIND A CLIENT WILLING TO TAKE HER
ON AT DISCOUNT. AFTER SHE LEFT
US, I'M AFRAID, I CANNOT SHED
ANY FURTHER LIGHT ON
HER ACTIONS.



AH, I SEE.
UNFORTUNATE.

BUT, *THIS*
IS CERTAINLY NOT
NEWS TO YOU, I IMAGINE,
CONSIDERING YOUR OBVIOUS
WEALTH OF KNOWLEDGE
AND INSIGHT--

--AND *POWER*.
COME NOW, LET US
VISIT WITH OUR MORE
EXPERIENCED
GIRLS.





SHINDUKU. THE NEXT MORNING.

ZZZZZ...

WHATTAYA GOT IN HERE?



WHAT?!!



GET, THE F*%K OFF ME!



YAAAAAWN~

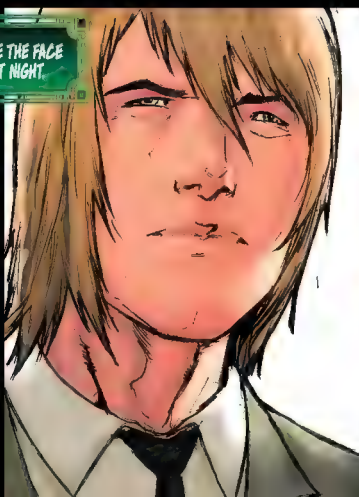


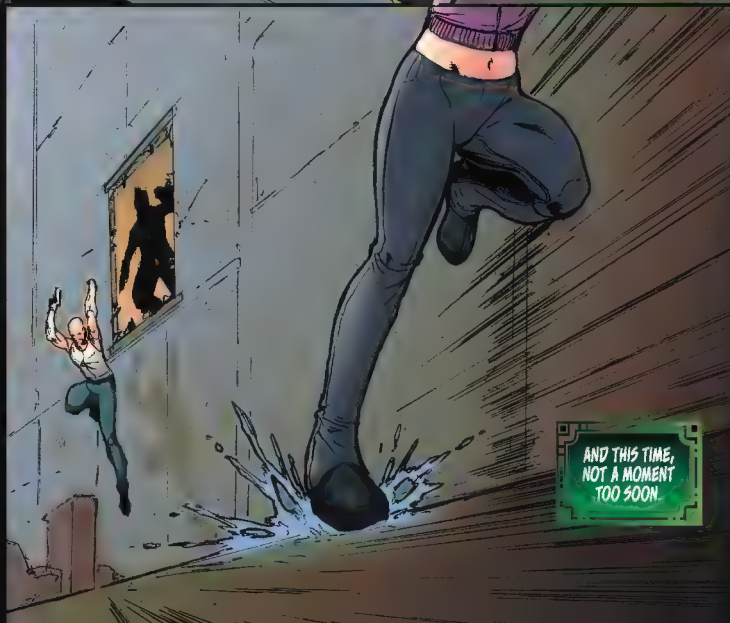
I BARELY HAVE ENOUGH FOR BUS FARE HOME.

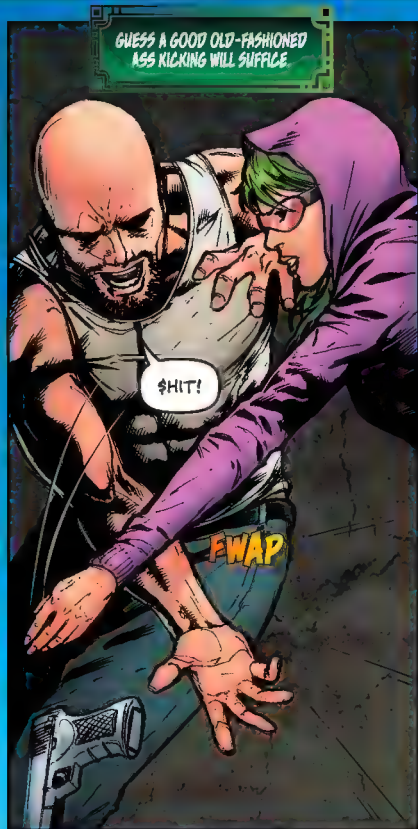


SIGH~

HOME, SWEET HOME, THAT IS.









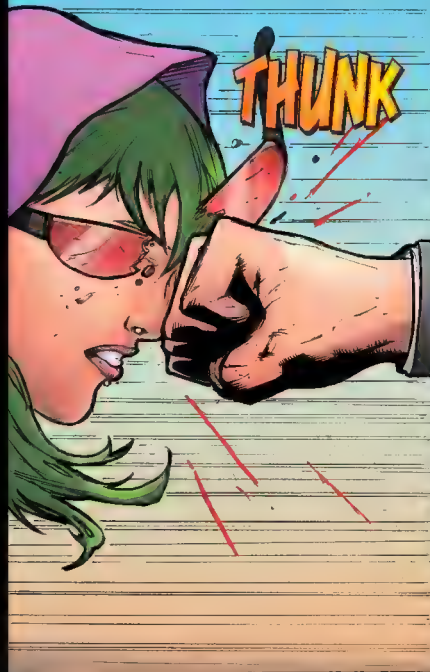
WHOEVER'S AFTER ME
REALLY SENT A WHOLE
PARTY. IT'S FLATTERING,
REALLY.

DON'T
LET HER
ESCAPE!



OUT OF BREATH. I KNOW WHY,
OF COURSE, BUT I CAN'T LET
IT SLOW ME DOWN.

EVEN AT HALF SPEED AND COMING
DOWN FROM A HIGH, I CAN STILL
OUTRUN THESE MORON--



THUNK



THUD

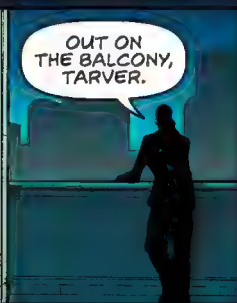
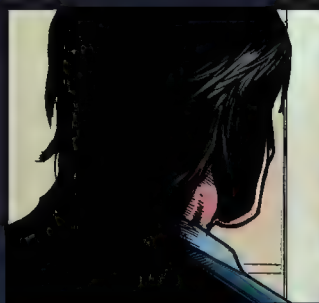


I HAD HEARD
SO MUCH ABOUT YOU
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS,
I EXPECTED MORE OF
A CHALLENGE.



MY BOSS,
MAZUTSU, HAS A
MESSAGE FOR YOU.
YOU'RE COMING
WITH US.

TOKYO, JAPAN.



OUT ON
THE BALCONY,
TARVER.



SO,
WE GOT
HER?

INDEED,
APPARENTLY,
THE CHALLENGE
WASN'T QUITE AS
DIFFICULT AS WE
EXPECTED.



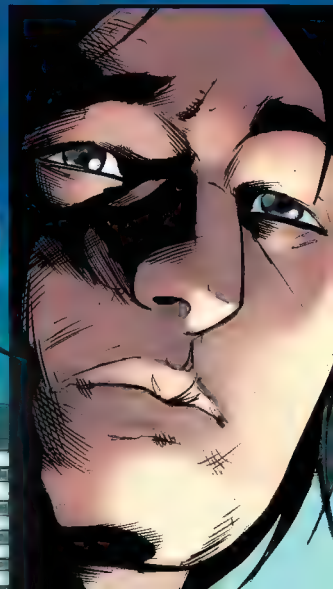
EXCELLENT WORK,
KAITO. REMEMBER TO
MAINTAIN EXTREME CAUTION
WITH HER. THEY ARE HIGHLY
TRAINED IN THE ART OF
ESCAPE.

CALL ME
WHEN IT'S
FINISHED.

AND
WHAT OF YOUR
ASSIGNMENT IN
CHINA?

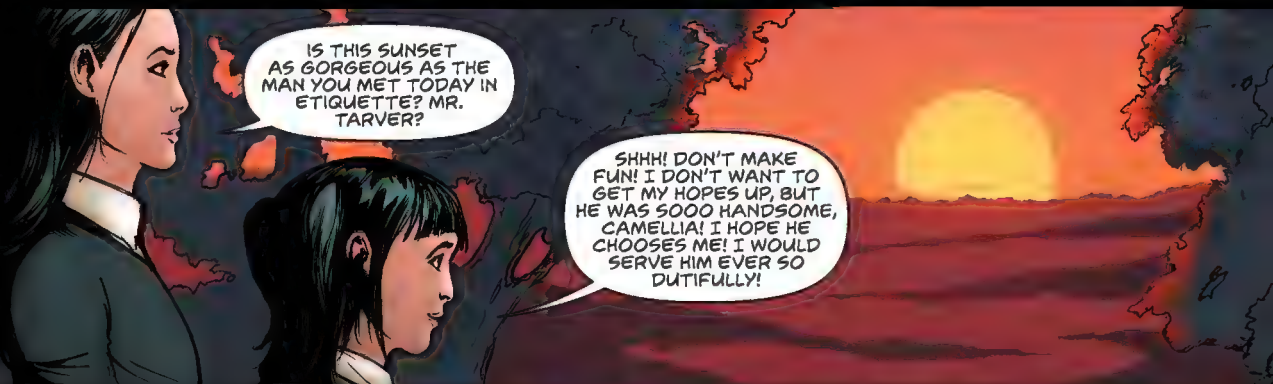
IT'S THERE.
THE ACADEMY IS
FULLY OPERATIONAL. THE
HEADMASTER, LILAC, GAVE
ME A PERSONAL TOUR
OF THE GROUNDS.

FUTURE
GENERATIONS ARE
BEING GROOMED AS
WE SPEAK.





IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL. IT WAS WORTH THE RISK SNEAKING OUT TO SEE IT.



IS THIS SUNSET AS GORGEOUS AS THE MAN YOU MET TODAY IN ETIQUETTE? MR. TARVER?

SHHH! DON'T MAKE FUN! I DON'T WANT TO GET MY HOPES UP, BUT HE WAS SOOO HANDSOME, CAMELLIA! I HOPE HE CHOOSES ME! I WOULD SERVE HIM EVER SO DUTIFULLY!



IT SHOULD BE ANY MINUTE NOW. THE BIRD'S ALREADY IN THE SKY.

WELL DONE, TARVER--



--THESE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS HAVE BECOME A LIABILITY TO OUR APPROACHES IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND ASIA.



I CANNOT CONTINUE TO ALLOW THEIR INTERFERENCE. SIMPLY REMOVING THE SNAKE'S HEAD WON'T DO ANYMORE. WE MUST START AT THE BODY.

I KNOW YOU THINK THIS MEASURE IS EXTREME, BUT I MUST LOOK TO THE FUTURE-- AND FUTURE THREATS TO GUARD AGAINST-- TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR ORGANIZATION. IT IS MY RESPONSIBILITY...



...NO
MATTER
WHAT THE
COST.



MOVE.

LIKE I SAID BEFORE, I
FIRST LEARNED DEFEAT AT THE
ACADEMY. BEFORE IRIS, I HAD
LIMITLESS POTENTIAL.



...UNTIL IT ALL
CAME CRASHING
DOWN ON ME.




KLIKT



LOOK, A
SHOOTING
STAR!

NO... IT'S
TOO CLOSE,
DANDELION. I
DON'T THINK
THAT'S A--

BUT I
GUESS THAT'S
THE STORY OF
MY LIFE...



THE HARDER I TRY,
THE WORSE I FAIL.

TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom, David Wohl (Witchblade, Ashbride, X) and Michael Turner (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

ASSASSINS #2

LIFE AFTER
DEATH
PART 2 OF 3



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WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: JORDAN GUNDERSON
COLORS: TELMORO GONZALEZ



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ENTERTAINMENT

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS



Wrote **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Illustrated **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

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COVER A



Ryan '12
Sotelo

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

ASSASSINS



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#2

COVER B



The story so far

Life after death has proven far tougher than Executive Assistant Lily could ever have imagined. Following a night on the streets of Shinjuku, Lily was fired from her job and spiraled into a nightmare of violence and soon, blood. Lily is determined and ruthless. All she needs are arms and a with a radio. Lily is a high tech assassin, but she's not a high tech person. In a chaotic world, Lily is the only one who can thrive in the empire, she's the only one who can.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

LIFE AFTER DEATH

PART 2 OF 3

WRITER

VINCE HERNANDEZ

ARTIST

JORDAN GUNDERSON

COLORS

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

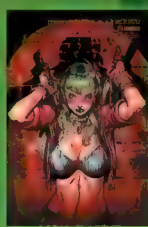
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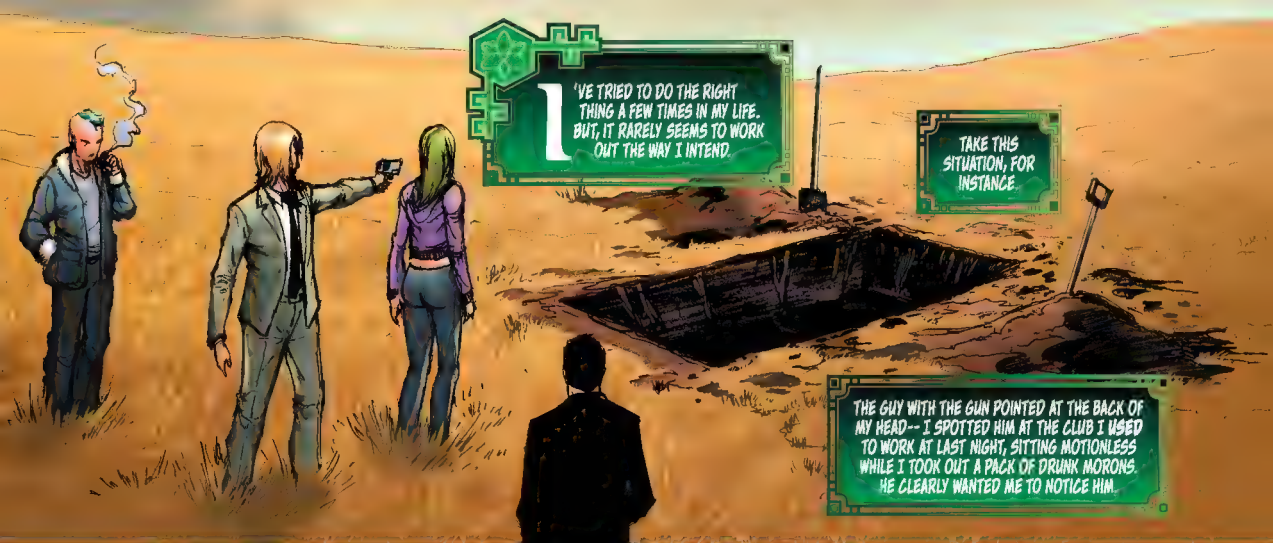
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I'VE TRIED TO DO THE RIGHT THING A FEW TIMES IN MY LIFE. BUT, IT RARELY SEEMS TO WORK OUT THE WAY I INTEND.

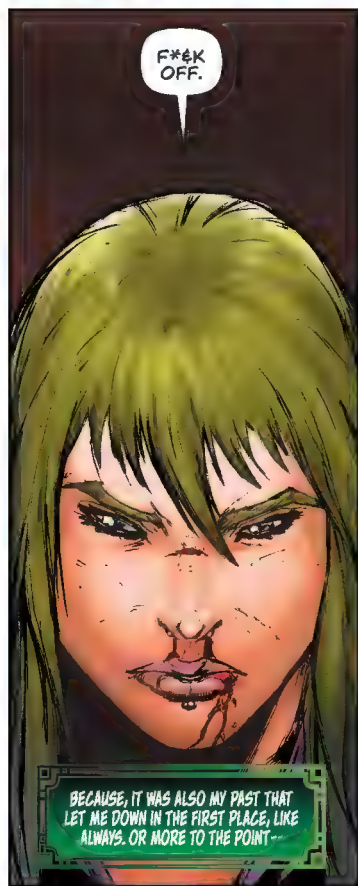
TAKE THIS SITUATION, FOR INSTANCE.

THE GUY WITH THE GUN POINTED AT THE BACK OF MY HEAD-- I SPOTTED HIM AT THE CLUB I USED TO WORK AT LAST NIGHT, SITTING MOTIONLESS WHILE I TOOK OUT A PACK OF DRUNK MORONS. HE CLEARLY WANTED ME TO NOTICE HIM.



ANY LAST WORDS?*

*TRANSLATED FROM JAPANESE.



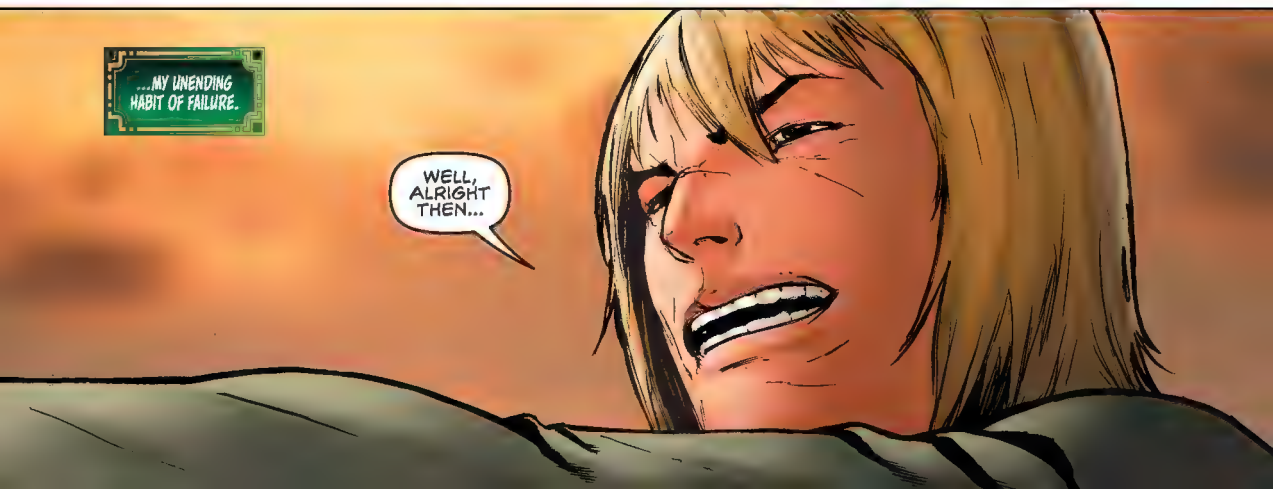
F**K OFF.

BECAUSE, IT WAS ALSO MY PAST THAT LET ME DOWN IN THE FIRST PLACE, LIKE ALWAYS. OR MORE TO THE POINT--



--MY ADDICTIONS.

NOT JUST TO HEROIN. OR TO VIOLENCE. NO..



...MY UNENDING HABIT OF FAILURE.

WELL, ALRIGHT THEN...





WHAT THE F*CK'S GOING ON?!

WHO ARE YOU?!

I DON'T HAVE TIME TO EXPLAIN, JUST COME WITH ME.



KATSE, I AM SORRY FRIEND, BUT YOU WILL SURVIVE. I'LL CALL FOR YOUR AID ONCE WE'RE CLEAR.

YOU WILL MAKE IT. AGAIN, I APOLOGIZE. IT WAS MY ONLY RECOURSE. I TRUST IN TIME, YOU WILL COME TO UNDERSTAND.

AM... I... DYING?



HERE, TAKE THIS.

WHAT?! WHY ARE YOU HELPING ME?

IT'S COMPLICATED. FIRST, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA HERE. I WON'T BE ABLE TO CLEAR THIS WITH THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

YOU'RE A COP? GREAT.



NO, LILY. FORGIVE ME, I KNOW YOU'RE CONFUSED. JUST BEAR WITH ME.

I NEED YOU TO TRUST ME FOR NOW. WE HAVE TO MOVE QUICKLY.



TRUST? HE CLEARLY DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS.

SIGH

ALRIGHT.



SAHI, CHIBA
PREFECTURE,
JAPAN.

HARU,
ARE YOU
FLYING?

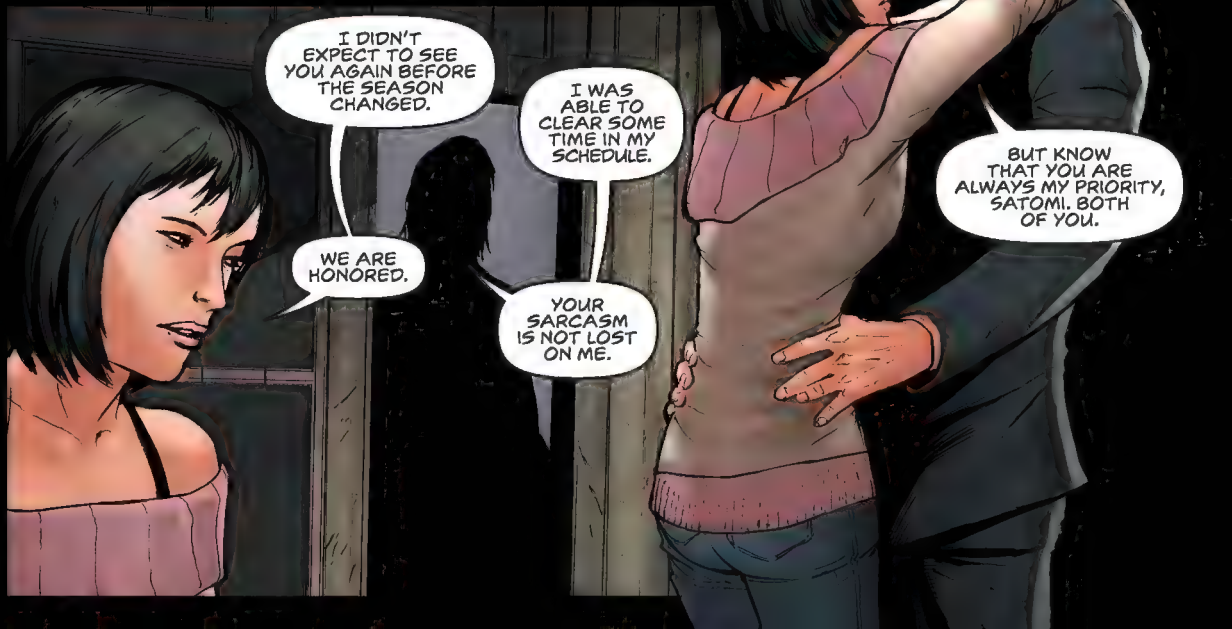


YES, MOM. I'M THE
PILOT. IT'S IMPORTANT
I STAY FOCUSED!



WELL,
DON'T LET ME
KEEP YOU FROM
YOUR IMPORTANT
DUTY, CAPTAIN,
SIR.

UP,
UP AND
AWAY WE
GO!



I DIDN'T
EXPECT TO SEE
YOU AGAIN BEFORE
THE SEASON
CHANGED.

WE ARE
HONORED.

I WAS
ABLE TO
CLEAR SOME
TIME IN MY
SCHEDULE.

YOUR
SARCASM
IS NOT LOST
ON ME.

BUT KNOW
THAT YOU ARE
ALWAYS MY PRIORITY,
SATOMI. BOTH
OF YOU.





WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

IT'S A SAFE HOUSE. SOMEWHERE WE CAN LAY LOW TILL WE FIGURE OUT A PLAN. WE'LL BE--

--SAFE HERE. YEAH, I GET IT.



I SHOULD TELL YOU I'M NOT ALL THAT GOOD AT LAYING LOW. KINDA DOESN'T RUN PARALLEL WITH MY PERSONALITY, IF YOU CATCH MY DRIFT.

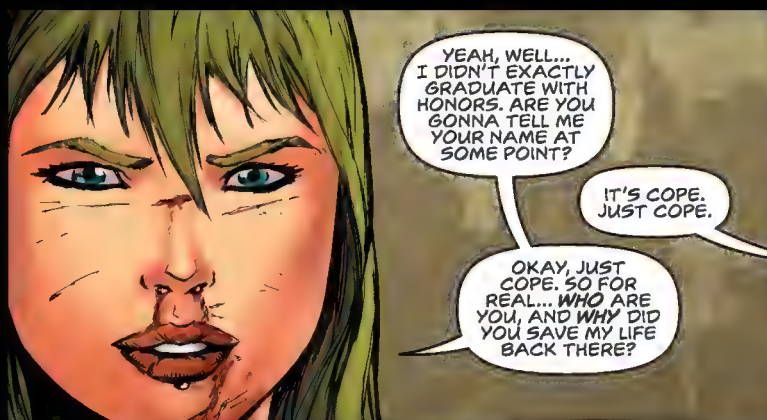
I KNOW WHO YOU ARE, LILY.



YOU EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS ARE SURPRISINGLY NOT VERY STEALTHY FOR BEING TRAINED IN COVERT OPS.



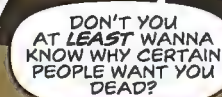
DRINK?

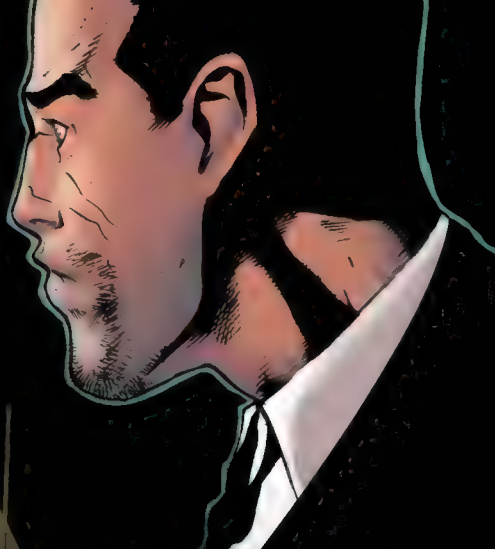


YEAH, WELL... I DIDN'T EXACTLY GRADUATE WITH HONORS. ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME YOUR NAME AT SOME POINT?

IT'S COPE. JUST COPE.

OKAY, JUST COPE. SO FOR REAL... WHO ARE YOU, AND WHY DID YOU SAVE MY LIFE BACK THERE?





LATER...

YOU KNOW... I
WASN'T ALWAYS
LIKE THIS.

A DRUG
ADDICT?

NO, YOU BLUNT
F*CK. THAT'S NOT
WHAT I MEANT.

I WASN'T
ALWAYS
SO...

...LOST.

LOOK, I'M
NO EXPERT IN
MATTERS OF
FATE, AS YOU
CAN SEE.

I'VE SPENT
THE PAST DECADE IN
SITUATIONS PRETENDING
I'M SOMEONE I'M NOT.
ALLOWING MY TRUE SELF
TO COME TO THE SURFACE
IS AN OCCUPATIONAL
HAZARD FOR ME. THE
PRICE OF A SLIP-UP
IS DEATH.

YEAH,
ABOUT THAT.
WHY DO YOUR
PEOPLE WANT
ME DEAD?

NOT
ME...

"...PEOPLE FAR MORE POWERFUL.

"YOUR FORMER MASTER, TAKED SUZUKI, KNEW THIS ALL TOO WELL. WHILE HE MUST'VE SEEMED AT THE TIME TO BE THE TOP OF THE FOOD CHAIN TO YOU, HE WAS MERELY A FRONT MAN. ONE OF MANY. ALL OF THEM REPORT TO A MUCH HIGHER POWER.

"MAZUTSU SAI HAS BEEN ON OUR UNOFFICIAL WATCH LIST FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS.

"HE WAS BORN INTO MONEY, BUT THAT DIDN'T STOP HIS WILL TO SUCCEED. HE NEARLY TRIPLED HIS WEALTH BEFORE REACHING THE AGE OF THIRTY. OIL WAS HIS BUSINESS THEN.

"BUT FOR MEN LIKE MAZUTSU, CURRENCY BECOMES A HABIT-- SOMETHING THEY TAKE FOR GRANTED. AND SOON, THEY TURN TO POWER TO SATISFY THEIR DESIRES. GEO-POLITICAL GAME CHANGING BECAME HIS NEW OBSESSION.

"INITIALLY, HE STARTED IN DEFENSE SYSTEMS FOR PEACEFUL, DEMOCRATIC NATIONS. IT WAS HIS FIRST FORAY INTO THE ARMS DEALING INDUSTRY, BUT HE QUICKLY BECAME A FORCE IN THE MARKET.

"IT WASN'T LONG BEFORE HE REALIZED SUCCESS IN THAT INDUSTRY IS NOT FOUND THROUGH PEACE.

"AND HE IS A MAN WHO MUST WIN AT ALL COSTS-- HIS VERY NATURE DEMANDS IT.

"YET, EVEN AT THIS POINT, THE AGENCY DID NOT DEEM HIM A THREAT TO OUR SECURITY. HOWEVER, HIS CURRENT ENTERPRISE IS WHAT CONCERNS US..."

"...POLITICS."

A POLITICIAN?
YEAH, FRIGHTENING.

YOU
DON'T
GET IT.

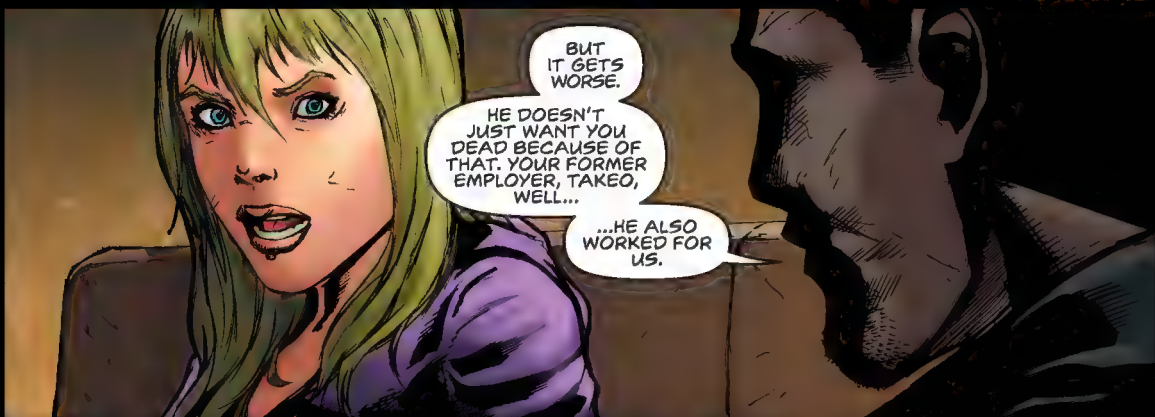
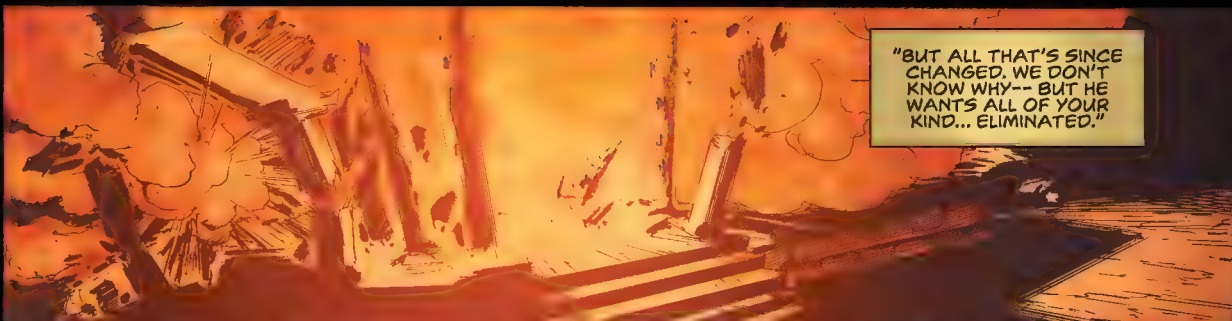
"THE BEST-- OR WORST
KIND OF CRIMINAL IF YOU MAY,
DOESN'T HIDE OUT AMONGST
OTHER CRIMINALS WHERE HE'S
EASY TO SPOT. NO... MAZUTSU
IS SMART ENOUGH TO KNOW
THE BEST KIND OF CRIMINAL
INHABITS THE LANDSCAPE
WHERE NO ONE WILL THINK
TO LOOK FOR HIM.

"AND WORSE
YET, HE USES HIS
BLANKET OF POLITICAL
DISCOURSE TO HIDE
THE TRUE NATURE
OF ACTIVITIES..."

"...BLOOD."

PLEASE--
NO!

"MEN LIKE
THIS, THEY MUST
ALWAYS FALL BACK
ON THEIR TRUE NATURE,
WHAT CALLS TO THEM. AND
THE PEOPLE HE'S BEGUN
KILLING ARE VALUED
ASSETS TO US."



LATER THAT NIGHT...



HEY...
YOU OK?

THAT'S A SILLY
QUESTION.

YEAH,
I GUESS
SO.



YOU *GUESS* SO?
I JUST FOUND OUT THE
GUY I DEDICATED MOST OF
MY ADULT LIFE TO WAS WORKING
FOR THE F*CKING C.I.A., WHICH
MEANS BY ALL ACCOUNTS--
I WAS WORKING FOR YOU
IDIOTS ALSO.



WE'RE NOT
ALL IDIOTS, LILY. AND
HEY, AT LEAST SOME OF
THAT MURDER AND ESPIONAGE
YOU PERFORMED WHILE UNDER
HIS SERVICE HAD SOME
JUSTICE TO IT.

YOU AGENTS
ARE NO LESS SINISTER
THAN ANY CRIMINAL I'VE
ENCOUNTERED, YOU JUST
HAVE THE LAW OF THE
LAND TO PROTECT
YOURSELVES.

LOOK, I'M
NOT GONNA GET
INTO A DEBATE
OVER--



--CAN IT. YOU
RESCUED ME BACK
THERE. YOU DIDN'T
HAVE TO BUT YOU *DID*.
YOU OBVIOUSLY NEED
MY HELP IN SOME WAY
OR I WOULDN'T BE
HERE, SO IN RETURN
I WANT SOMETHING
FROM YOU.



I WANT
YOU TO SAVE
ME... AGAIN.

TOKYO.

YOU'RE LATE.

APOLOGIES, SIR. MY FLIGHT WAS DELAYED.

OFF SCOUTING FOR MORE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS, I TRUST?

SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

I DON'T PAY YOU TO BE VAGUE, I PAY YOU FOR SPECIFICS.

KAITO IS DEAD.

WHAT?!

YOU HEARD ME. SHE TOOK KATSE DOWN AS WELL.

AND COPE?

NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

OH.

EXACTLY. NO DOUBT THE C.I.A. OR MOSSAD IS INVOLVED.

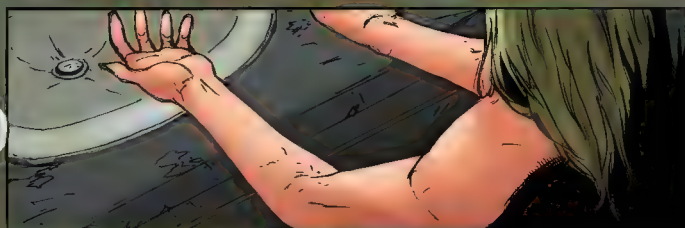
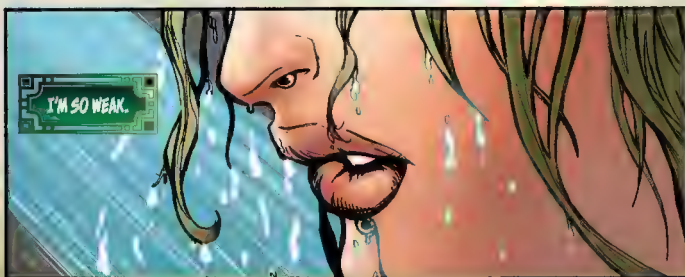
I'M SORRY, MAZUTSU. HE WAS A GOOD MAN.

NO, HE WASN'T. THAT IS WHY I HIRED HIM. YET, NOW AN EVEN GREATER PROBLEM PRESENTS ITSELF.

WE MUST CLEANSE OUR PEOPLE BEFORE I CAN BE CERTAIN OF WHO TO TRUST AGAIN.

I HAVEN'T FELT A
WARM SHOWER IN DAYS. COPE
SEEMS ON THE LEVEL, AT LEAST,
PROVIDING A PLACE FOR ME TO
LAY LOW. BUT, I'M NOT STAYING
BECAUSE THEY NEED MY HELP.

I'M STAYING BECAUSE I
HAVE NOWHERE ELSE TO
GO. IT'S SUCH A HELPLESS
FEELING, I'LL ADMIT.





MAZUTSU-SAN,
PLEASE!

IT'S NOT
YOUR FAULT,
HIDEKI.

UPON
JOINING OUR
ORGANIZATION,
YOU WERE
REQUIRED
TO FIERCELY
DEVOTE ALL OF
YOUR LOYALTY
TO ME.

ALL OF
YOU.

HOWEVER,
AFTER RECENT EVENTS,
IT'S CLEAR THE DEVOTION
OF OUR PEOPLE MUST BE PUT
TO THE TEST. YOU MEN HAVE
BEEN SELECTED NOT BECAUSE
OF YOUR ABILITIES, OR YOUR
PERSONALITIES, OR BECAUSE
OF ANY INDISCRETIONS--
NO...

...YOU WERE
CHOSEN BECAUSE I
DO NOT COMPLETELY
TRUST YOU.

YOU ARE NEW,
OR INEXPERIENCED,
OR SIMPLY SUSPICIOUS,
AND THUS... AN EXAMPLE
MUST BE MADE TO MY
VETERANS.

PLEASE!

MR. TARVER,
IF YOU MAY?





...THEN WE
MUST ELIMINATE
ALL DOUBT.

NOW,
FIND ME
LILX

TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Father: David Wohl & Michael Turner

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

LIFE AFTER
DEATH
PART 3 OF 3



ASSASSINS #3



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The story so far...

The withdrawals from her past life, as well as the demons within have made Lily's present as tumultuous as ever. Yet a CIA operative with the codename Cope has taken an interest in the deadly Executive Assistant. As part of her plan to grow Mazzy's life continues to grow, Mazzy's executive assistant-murdering plot seems like the issue Lily's permanent solution, a threat not to be taken lightly. Lily is known for always getting her way.



LIFE AFTER DEATH

PART 3 OF 3

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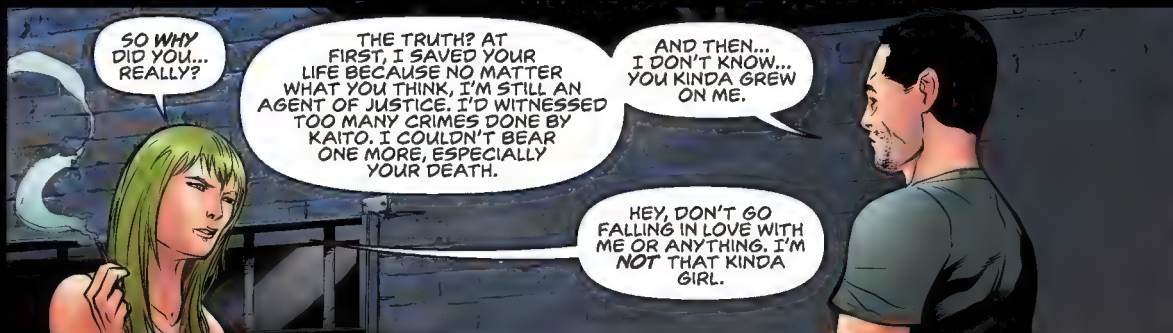
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A SAHI, CHIBA
PREFECTURE.
JAPAN.

ARE YOU
SERIOUS, BUT
WHY?

I CANNOT
EXPLAIN, IT IS TOO
DANGEROUS YOU
KNOWING.

HARU
AND YOU MUST
BE PREPARED TO
LEAVE IN THE MORNING.
I HAVE SEEN TO THE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR
YOUR DEPARTURE...
AND WHEN THE TIME
IS RIGHT-- I WILL
REJOIN YOU
BOTH.

COME WITH US NOW.
IF YOU ARE IN DANGER,
WHO WILL PROTECT **YOU**?
IF SOMETHING WERE TO
HAPPEN TO YOU--

--NOTHING WILL
HAPPEN TO ME, I
PROMISE--

--YOU...

...ARE
CORRECT.
NOTHING WILL
HAPPEN TO
YOU, MR.
TARVER.

WHAT
DO YOU
WA--

--LOOK AT
MY FACE...

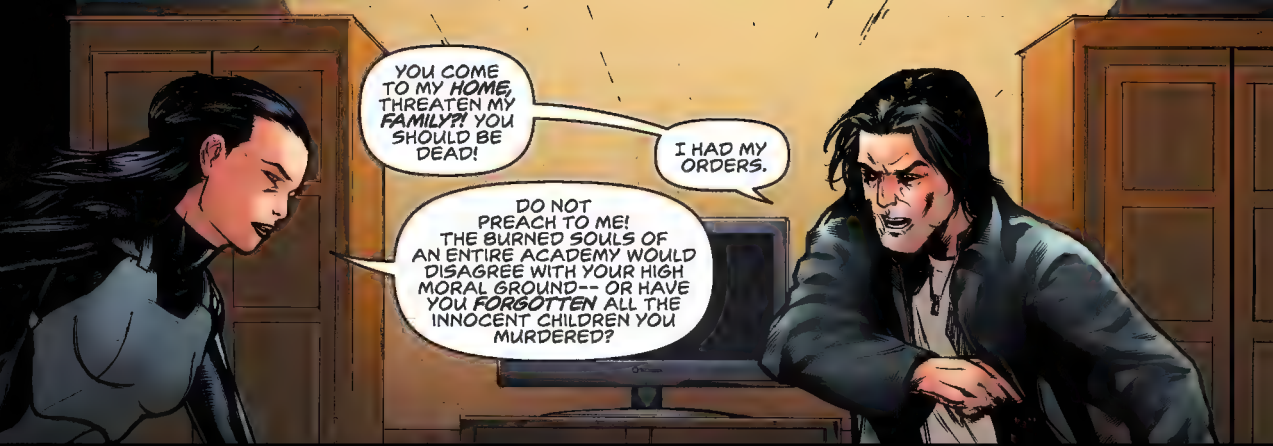
...AND YOU
WILL KNOW
WHY I AM
HERE.

LILAC?!

SATOMI--
TAKE HARU
AND GO!

BUT, WHO--

--NOW!



YOU COME TO MY HOME, THREATEN MY FAMILY! YOU SHOULD BE DEAD!

I HAD MY ORDERS.

DO NOT PREACH TO ME! THE BURNED SOULS OF AN ENTIRE ACADEMY WOULD DISAGREE WITH YOUR HIGH MORAL GROUND-- OR HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN ALL THE INNOCENT CHILDREN YOU MURDERED?



AS DO I!



UNNGH!

YOU'VE ALREADY TRIED BEFORE! IT DIDN'T END WELL FOR YOU.

YOU DON'T... UNNGH... KNOW...

I'LL... UNNGH... KILL YOU...



...ME!

AGGGGGH!



CRASH

AHHH!



STAY AWAY FROM HIM!

FATHER!

SATOMI! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! STAY BEHIND ME! I WILL PROTECT YOU!

DO YOU THINK THIS IS A GAME?

YOU RISK THE CHERISHED POSSESSIONS OF YOUR LIFE AS IF THEY WERE PIECES ON A CHESSBOARD.



YOU KNOW NOTHING OF AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT...



...WE DO NOT HESITATE.

NO!

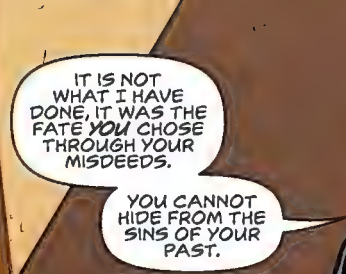


BANG
BANG



SATOMI!
HARU!

WHAT
HAVE YOU
DONE?!



IT IS NOT
WHAT I HAVE
DONE, IT WAS THE
FATE **YOU** CHOSE
THROUGH YOUR
MISDEEDS.

YOU CANNOT
HIDE FROM THE
SINS OF YOUR
PAST.



THEY WERE
MY WORLD, WITHOUT
THEM... YOU MAY AS
WELL KILL ME.



I WILL
NOT.

I WILL
ALLOW YOU
TO LIVE WITH A
WOUND THAT
WILL NEVER
HEAL.



PERHAPS IT
WILL SWAY YOUR
FUTURE CHOICES...
AND YOUR **LOYALTIES**,
FROM THIS POINT
FORWARD.



HEY.

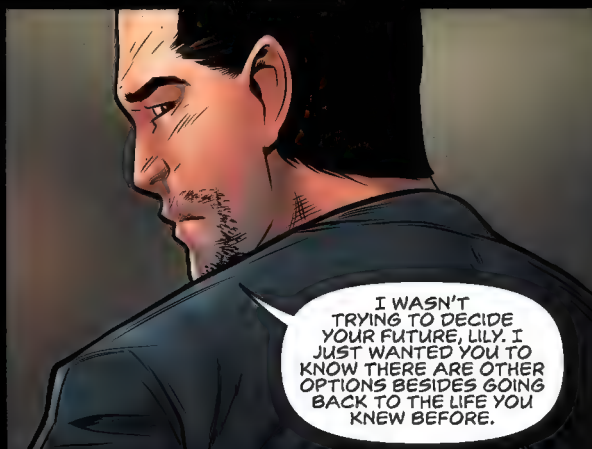
LISTEN...

DON'T WORRY,
I'M GATHERING MY
THINGS AND WE CAN
GO OUR SEPARATE
WAYS.



...I KNOW
YOU MEANT
WELL EARLIER, I
SHOULDN'T HAVE
JUMPED ON YOUR
CASE LIKE I
DID.

I'M JUST
TIRED OF BEING
PULLED EVERY WHICH
WAY, NEVER ONCE MAKING
THE CHOICE ON MY OWN.
MY FUTURE'S ALWAYS
BEEN DECIDED
FOR ME.



I WASN'T
TRYING TO DECIDE
YOUR FUTURE, LILY. I
JUST WANTED YOU TO
KNOW THERE ARE OTHER
OPTIONS BESIDES GOING
BACK TO THE LIFE YOU
KNEW BEFORE.



I... KNOW.

YOU'VE SAVED
ME IN A LOT OF
WAYS COPE.

IT HASN'T GONE
UNNOTICED.

IT'S JUST...
I HAVE TRUST
ISSUES. AND I KNOW
THAT'S CLICHÉ, BUT IN
MY PREVIOUS LINE OF
WORK I THINK YOU CAN
UNDERSTAND WHERE
IT'S COMING
FROM.

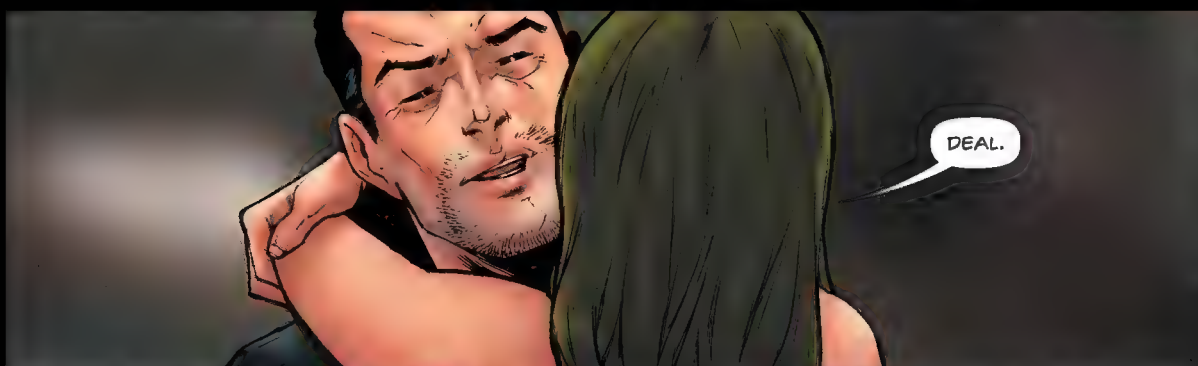
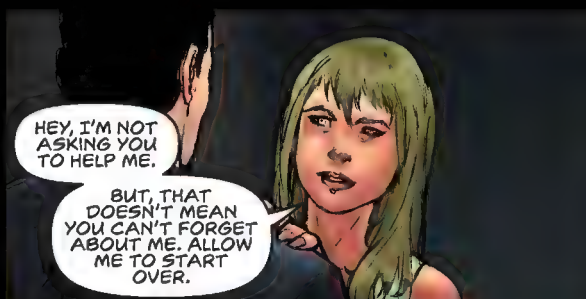


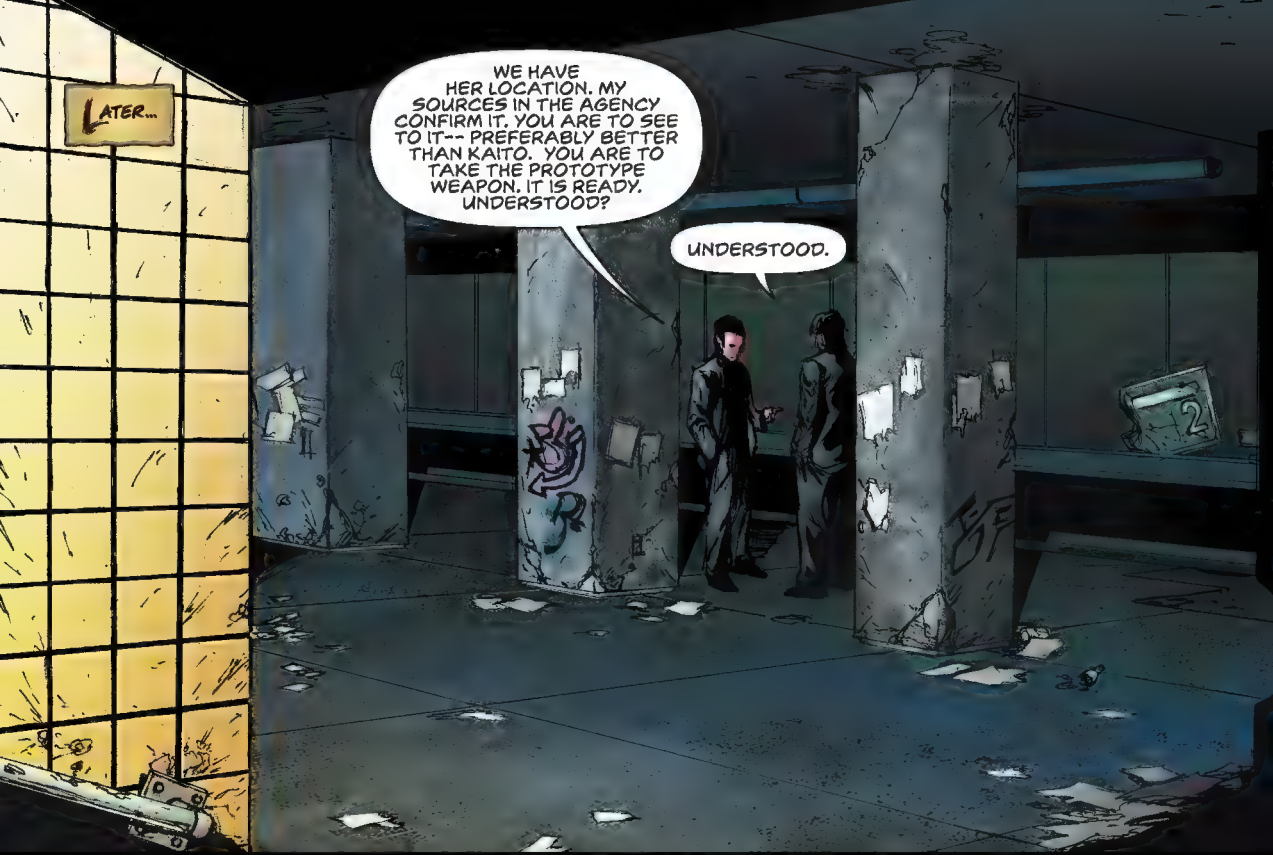
I UNDERSTAND,
BUT DO YOU **REALLY**
THINK YOU'RE SAFER
NOW ON YOUR
OWN?

WELL...



...I'M NOT
REALLY ON MY
OWN, AM I?

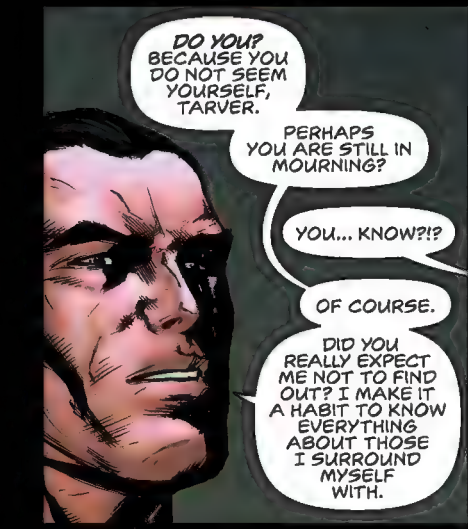




LATER...

WE HAVE HER LOCATION. MY SOURCES IN THE AGENCY CONFIRM IT. YOU ARE TO SEE TO IT-- PREFERABLY BETTER THAN KAITO. YOU ARE TO TAKE THE PROTOTYPE WEAPON. IT IS READY. UNDERSTOOD?

UNDERSTOOD.



DO YOU? BECAUSE YOU DO NOT SEEM YOURSELF, TARVER.

PERHAPS YOU ARE STILL IN MOURNING?

YOU... KNOW?!?

OF COURSE.

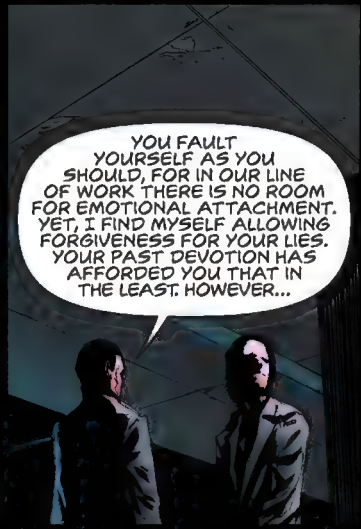
DID YOU REALLY EXPECT ME NOT TO FIND OUT? I MAKE IT A HABIT TO KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT THOSE I SURROUND MYSELF WITH.



AND YOU ARE MY MOST TRUSTED ADVISOR.

APOLOGIES MAZUTSU. I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT BETTER OF IT--

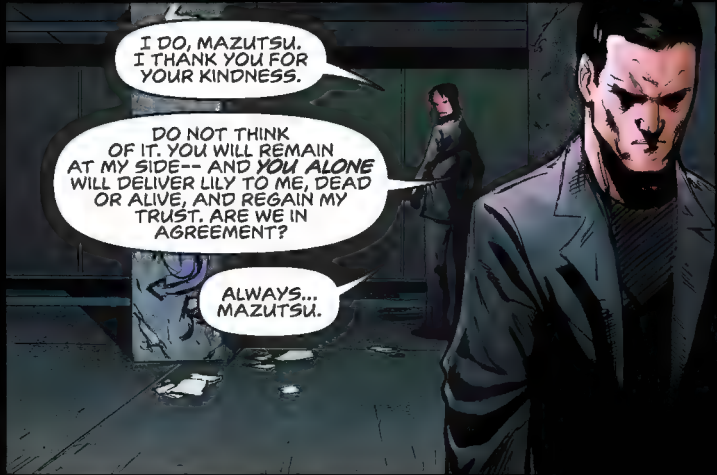
--ALL OF IT.



YOU FAULT YOURSELF AS YOU SHOULD, FOR IN OUR LINE OF WORK THERE IS NO ROOM FOR EMOTIONAL ATTACHMENT. YET, I FIND MYSELF ALLOWING FORGIVENESS FOR YOUR LIES. YOUR PAST DEVOTION HAS AFFORDED YOU THAT IN THE LEAST. HOWEVER...



...KEEP SECRETS FROM ME AGAIN AND MY MERCY WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO YOU, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?



I DO, MAZUTSU. I THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS.

DO NOT THINK OF IT. YOU WILL REMAIN AT MY SIDE-- AND YOU ALONE WILL DELIVER LILY TO ME, DEAD OR ALIVE, AND REGAIN MY TRUST. ARE WE IN AGREEMENT?

ALWAYS... MAZUTSU.



Y'KNOW,
I'M GONNA MISS
THIS P.O.S.

I'M NOT. I'D
RATHER BE IN THE
GAME AGAIN.



GOING ROGUE.
HELPING AN "ASSET"
ESCAPE. I'D SAY THE
GAME IS ABOUT TO GET
MUCH MORE DIFFICULT
FOR YOU GOING
FORWARD.

I'LL GET
BY. IT'S WHAT
I DO.

JUST DON'T
MAKE ME REGRET
IT. I'M PUTTING MY ASS
OUT THERE TO GIVE YOU
A CHANCE AT A NEW
BEGINNING.

SEE THAT YOU
FOLLOW THROUGH
ON YOUR END OF
THE BARGAIN.

YOU HAVE
NOTHING TO WOR--



COPE!

NNNGH!

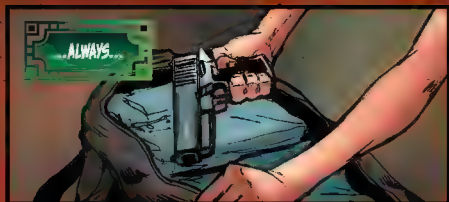
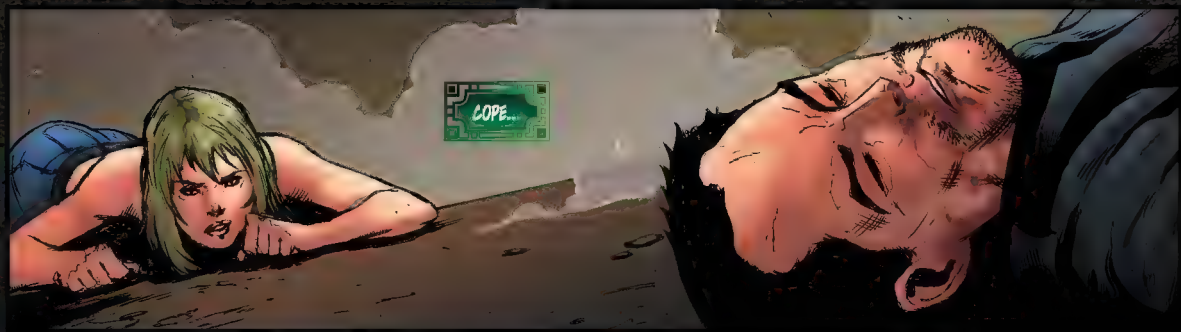
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THUD



COPE, YOU
TRAITOR, ONE
DOWN.





I'M SORRY I
BROUGHT THIS
ON YOU, JUST
COPE



AND I HOPE YOU
UNDERSTAND--



--THIS IS MY
ONLY PLAY--



UNNNNGH!



THEY WANT ME DEAD, WELL,
THE JOKE'S ON THEM--

—BECAUSE I
DIED A LONG
TIME AGO.





THE SHOOTER'S ON THE ROOFTOP. I NEED TO GET UP THERE-- AND QUICK.



BUT, FIRST, I NEED TO SURVIVE DOWN HERE. LUCKILY, I'VE NEVER FELT BETTER THANKS TO THE DETOX... THANKS TO COPE.

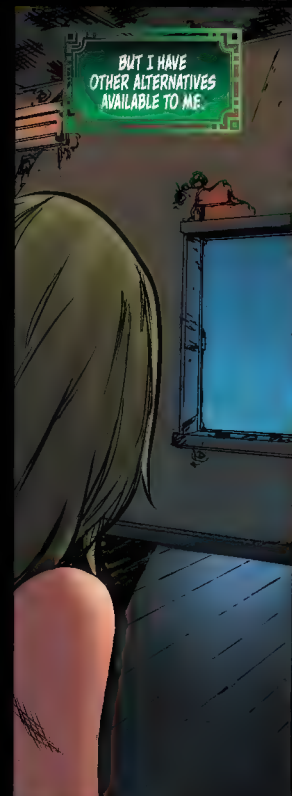
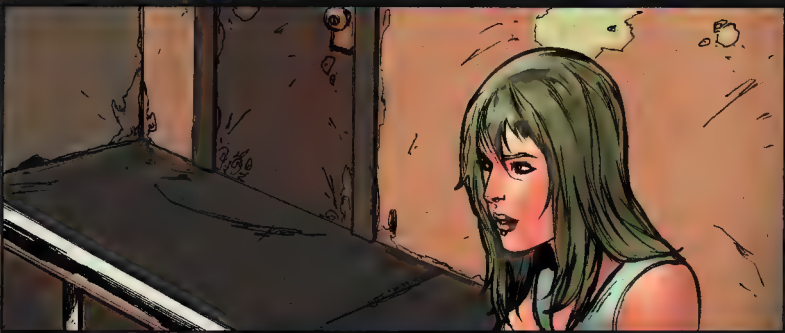




WE'LL BE EXPECTING ME
TO TAKE THE STAIRS.



FIRE ON ME WHEN
I BURST THROUGH
THE DOOR.



BUT I HAVE
OTHER ALTERNATIVES
AVAILABLE TO ME.



OF
COURSE.
NO FIRE
ESCAPE.

LOOKS
LIKE THE HARD
WAY IT IS.





C'MON...



CRAAAAK



NNNGH...



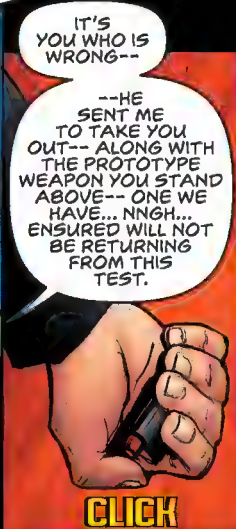
GET UP. I WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE. YOU WANTED ME, HERE I AM.



YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE UP AGAINST, LILY.



THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG. I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE CAPABLE OF.



IT'S YOU WHO IS WRONG--

--HE SENT ME TO TAKE YOU OUT-- ALONG WITH THE PROTOTYPE WEAPON YOU STAND ABOVE-- ONE WE HAVE... NNGH... ENSURED WILL NOT BE RETURNING FROM THIS TEST.

CLICK

COPE'S BODY CAN ATTEST TO THAT. YOUR BOSS MAZUTSU IS NOT GONNA SEE ME COMING, TRUST ME.



BEEEEEEEEEP

AHHHHH!

KABOOOM

UNNGH!

NO YOU
DON'T!

-COUGH,
COUGH-

THUD

AGHH!

CRACK

FWAP

THUMP



SPTUW!

YOU THINK...
NGGH... THIS IS
GONNA STOP HIM?
HE WILL NEVER STOP.
YOU KNOW TOO
MUCH. HE WILL
NEVER CEASE.

YOU KNOW, I
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW
TAKEO WORKED FOR
THE C.I.A. BEFORE
COPE TOLD ME,
YOU IDIOTS.

DOESN'T...
MATTER NOW. HE
WILL NEVER STOP
UNTIL EVERY TRACE
OF TAKEO IS
RIDDEN.

YOU CAN DEFEAT
ME. KILL ME EVEN. I
HAVE NOTHING TO
LIVE FOR ANYMORE,
REGARDLESS.

BUT,
MAZUTSU...

...HE WILL
BE YOUR END,
ASSASSIN.

LET
US FINISH
THIS.

I WILL SEE
YOU SOON,
HITOMI.

THUNK

MORE BLOOD. I GUESS I JUST CAN'T
ESCAPE IT. NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO
REFORM, TO BE A BETTER PERSON, DEATH
IS ALWAYS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER.



IT'S AN INEVITABILITY.



IT'S WHAT DRIVES
ME. A DESTINY I
CAN'T ESCAPE...



AND SOON...
VERY SOON...

...MAZUTSU
WILL SHARE THE
SAME FATE



Tokyo.

TARVER'S REMAINS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO THE CITY MORGUE, SIR.

THANK YOU, YOU MAY SEE YOURSELF OUT.

SIR.

AN UNFORTUNATE TURN OF EVENTS.

IS IT NOT AS YOU PLANNED?

INDEED IT IS. IF TARVER SUCCEEDED, HE'D HAVE RID ME OF AN INCESSANT NUISANCE, YET I KNEW HE WOULD BE UNABLE TO DO SO. LILY HAS PROVEN TOO HARD A TARGET.

YET, THE TRAGEDY OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES REMAINS A FACT. TARVER WAS ONE OF MY BEST MEN. HIS LOSS WILL SURELY BE FELT.

IT WAS A NECESSITY. HIS LOYALTY WAS IN DOUBT.

IT WAS NOT IN DOUBT. IT WAS CERTAIN. HIS PRIVATE LIFE, HIS FAMILY-- HIS SECRETS-- MADE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO DEVOTE TRUST IN HIM.

I THOUGHT HIS INVOLVEMENT IN THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMY WOULD STEEL HIS NERVES, BUT I ADMIT TO MY MISCALCULATION OF HIS LOYALTY.

YOUR MISSION WAS UNAVOIDABLE. THEY HAD TO BE ELIMINATED AND SO DID HE. YOU ACCOMPLISHED THE TASK WELL...

...LILAC.

WITH PLEASURE,
MASTER.

YOUR
NEXT MISSION
IS CLEAR?

OF COURSE.

LILY WILL
SOON FOLLOW
HIM TO THE
AFTERLIFE.

TO BE CONTINUED IN
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSINS #6: "EXECUTIVE
EXTINCTION" PART 1.

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS #4

COVERS BY
ARTISTIC ASSASSINS
SIYA OUM AND
GIUSEPPE CAFARO

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**LOST
AT SEA
PART 1 OF 2**



**CAFARO
COVER B**



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EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

ASSASSINS #5

**Aspen's First Ever
Ongoing Series Continues!**

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: LORI HANSON
INKS BY: JONATHAN BOLERJACK
COLORS: JOHN STARR

**LOST
AT SEA
PART 2 OF 2**



**TONY PARKER
COVER A**

**ELIZABETH TORQUE
COVER B**



BLOCKADE
ENTER ENTERTAINMENT

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS



Vince **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Jonathan **BOLERJACK**
John **STARR**
Josh **REED**
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#4

COVER A

INTRODUCING
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Sophora



EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT
A

ASSASSINS



Vince HERNANDEZ
Jordan GUNDERSON
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#4

COVER B



The story is far

They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with the same loyalty and often with the same heart. They are the Execution Assassins.

LOST AT SEA

PART 1 OF 2

WRITTEN BY
VINCE HERNANDEZ

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SIYA OUM



B: DIRECT EDITION
GIUSEPPE CAFARO
BETH SOTELO



C: RETAILER INCENTIVE
"PIRATE" EDITION
SIYA OUM



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THE SEAS NEAR
TONGATAPU ISLAND

THE OCEAN WINDS ABIDE OUR
MEETING. NORMALLY, THIS TIME
OF THE SEASON, THE TIDES
HAVE A MIND OF THEIR OWN.

HOWEVER, TODAY,
NOTHING BUT CALM SEAS
FOR ENDLESS KNOTS.
I'D SAY...



IT'S A PERFECT
DAY TO PERISH.

PLEASE!
LET ME
GO!

I WOULD DO SO
WILLINGLY AND WITH
MUCH PLEASURE, IF YOU
WOULD JUST DIVULGE
THE INFORMATION
I SEEK.

HRRGGH! WHO
ARE YOU?! WHY
HAVE YOU TAKEN
ME HOSTAGE?!

WHO
AM I?

I AM
AN **EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**. DO
YOU KNOW WHAT
THAT IS?

IT MEANS I
AM THE MASTER
OF YOUR FATE.

PLEASE--
I'M JUST A VESSEL
MERCHANT. I HAVE
NOT CROSSED YOU
IN ANY WAY.

YOU SPEAK
THE TRUTH.
HOWEVER...

...YOUR MOTIVE
I COULD CARE
LESS ABOUT. IT IS
THE INFORMATION
YOU POSSESS I
COVET.

WHICH OF
YOUR SHIPS ON AIS*
IS CARRYING THE CAPTIVE
MEN TAKEN BY THE TONGAN
GOVERNMENT? GIVE
ME A NAME.

I DON'T
KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE TALKING
ABOUT!

* AUTOMATIC
IDENTIFICATION
SYSTEM.

NO---WAIT!

REALLY, YOU
CAN MAKE
THIS EASY ON
YOURSELF.

DO YOU
KNOW HOW
FAR OUT
WE ARE?

HOW MANY
DIFFERENT BREEDS
OF SHARK INFEST
THESE WATERS?

YOU WILL NEVER
SURVIVE OUT HERE,
AND FOR WHAT? ALL I
ASK IS A NAME AND
YOU WILL BE SET
FREE.

ALRIGHT!
JUST PLEASE,
GET ME UP!

NOT BEFORE---

--THE SEA
VOYAGER!

THAT IS THE
NAME OF THE
VESSEL, NOW
PLEASE!!!

SHE IS
CAPABLE.

I WARNED
YOU NEVER TO DOUBT
SOPHORA.

POINT
TAKEN.

DO IT.

WAIT! I TOLD
YOU WHAT YOU
WANTED!

DO NOT FRET.
I ALWAYS KEEP
MY WORD--

--YOU ARE
FREE.

NOOOOOO!

SPLASH

AN UNDISCLOSED LOCATION.

YOU DRINK WHILE WE WORK?

THIS DOES NOT SEEM FAIR TO ME.

YOUR INSTINCTS ARE WELL FOUNDED, GANO. IT IS NOT FAIR, AS ARE MANY THINGS IN LIFE.

IF I WERE TO TAKE THIS ROPE HERE AND STRANGLE YOU WITH IT, YOU WOULD BE UNABLE TO STOP ME-- THAT IS UNFAIR, IS IT NOT?

UM... DEFINITELY, UNFAIR.

YET, I CHOOSE NOT TO KILL YOU ON A DAILY BASIS. SO, WHILE ON THE ONE HAND IT MIGHT APPEAR TO BE WRONG THAT YOU WORK WHILE I WATCH, REALLY, THE ALTERNATIVE COULD BE MUCH WORSE. CORRECT?

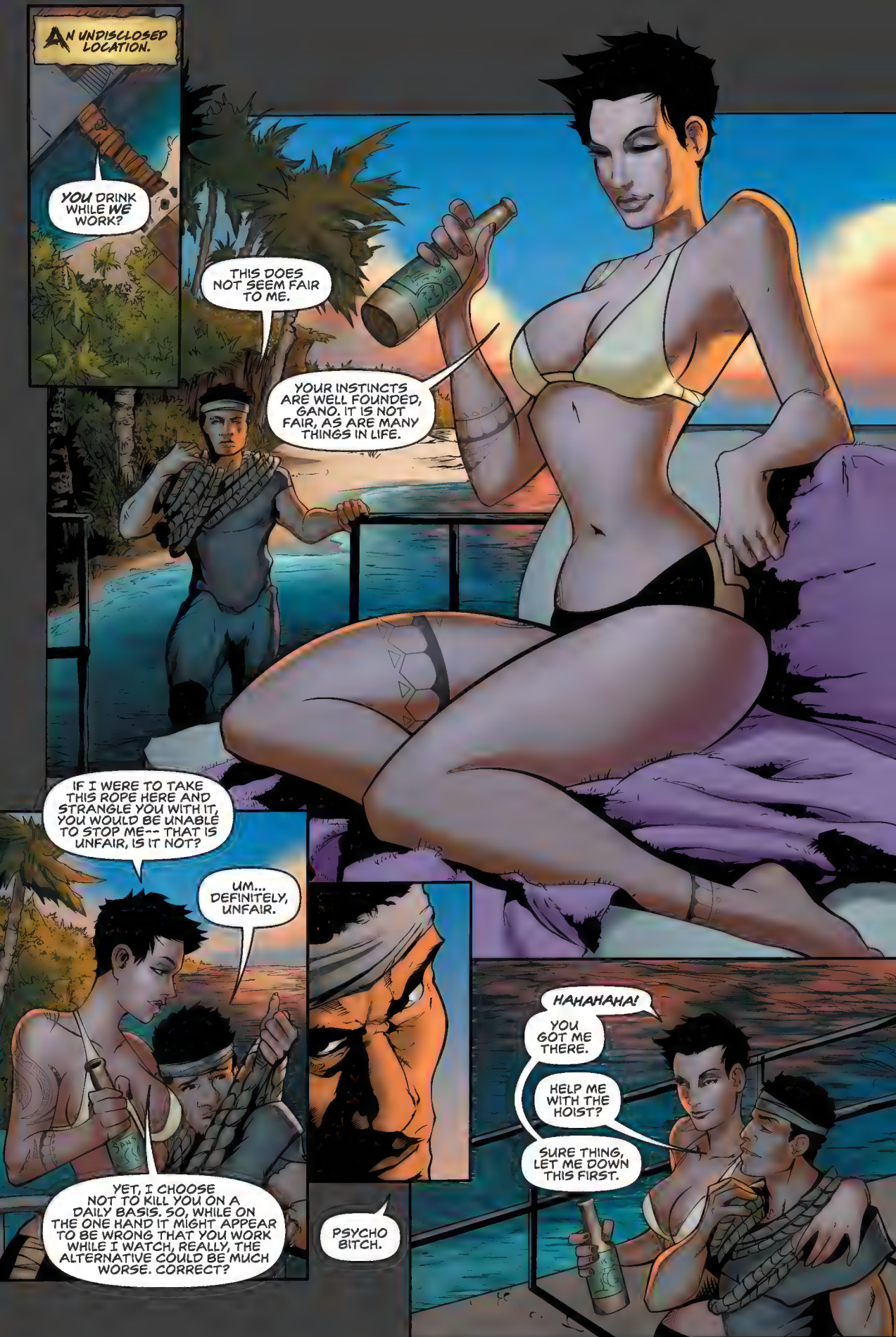
PSYCHO BITCH.

HAHAHAHA!

YOU GOT ME THERE.

HELP ME WITH THE HOIST?

SURE THING, LET ME DOWN THIS FIRST.





WHAT DO YOU THINK SHE FINDS SO FUNNY?

WHO GIVES A F**K?

THE WOMAN DOESN'T DO ANYTHING WE CANNOT, YET SHE IS TREATED AS LA NOCHE TRISTE, OR SOME OTHER LOST TREASURE.

YOU WOULD BE WISE NOT TO LET BOSS HEAR SUCH WORDS, MARKEL.

TIKOTÉ KNOWS MY LOYALTY LIES UNDER HIS FLAG-- ALWAYS. BUT IT ENDS WITH HIS HAND. I DON'T TAKE ORDERS FROM HER, OR YOU, LANDON.



EASE YOURSELF, I DID NOT INTEND TO RILE YOU, ALTHOUGH THE TASK IS NOT TOO DIFFICULT.

DO NOT CONCERN YOURSELF WITH MY FEELINGS. I KNOW MY PLACE, AND THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL SOON DISCOVER THEIRS.

TOUGH WORDS, MARKEL.

ONES I ANTICIPATE YOU WILL ENFORCE ON YOUR NEXT MISSION?

OF COURSE, TIKOTÉ, I REMAIN READY FOR THE TASK-- ALWAYS.



AND WHAT OF YOU, LANDON?

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME, BOSS.

WE SHALL SEE ABOUT THAT.

LATER...

CHING

WHEN I WAS A YOUNG
GIRL AT THE ACADEMY, MY
TEACHER WAS RUTHLESS

SHE BEAT THE SHIT OUT
OF ME DAILY. I CRIED MYSELF
TO SLEEP FOR AS LONG AS
I CAN REMEMBER

CRACK

YOU FORCE
THE ATTACK TOO
SUDDEN.

IT LEAVES YOU
EXPOSED.

HRAAAA!

YOU ARE ALSO
STUBBORN.

AND ONE
DAY--



NIGHTFALL...

WHERE IS
YOUR HONOR,
ALLOWING HER
TO BEAT YOU
IN EXHIBITION
AS SO?

WE ARE
PIRATES,
MARKEL, AND
YOU SPEAK
TO ME OF
HONOR?

THAT IS BESIDE THE
POINT. WE DO WHAT WE
MUST FOR SURVIVAL, FOR
EACH OTHER. BUT, TO LET
A WOMEN LIKE HER KICK
YOUR ASS IN FRONT OF
THE CREW, WHAT DO YOU
THINK THEY WILL SAY?

NO ONE BUT
YOU QUESTIONS IT.
SHE IS TIKOTE'S EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT. SHE IS TRAINED
TO KILL, DO YOU SUSPECT
YOU WOULD FARE
BETTER?

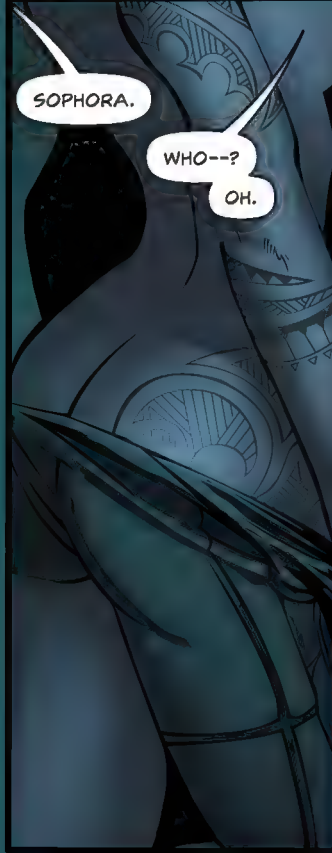
I DO
NOT SUSPECT--
I KNOW.

SHE MAY BE
TRAINED IN THE
ART OF KILLING,
BUT I AM BRED
FOR IT.

COME...

...LET US SHOW
THE CREW OF THE
SEA VOYAGER THE
TRUTH BEHIND MY
WORDS.





SOPHORA.

WHO--?

OH.

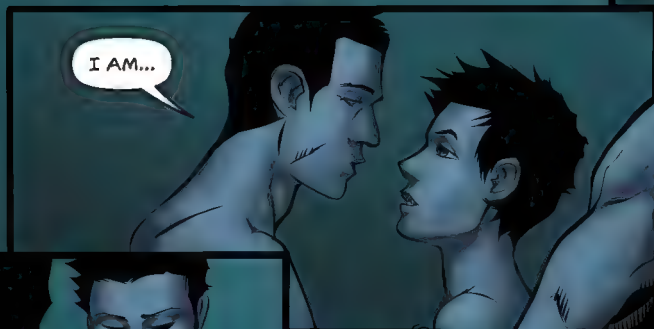


LANDON,
DON'T STARTLE
ME LIKE THAT.

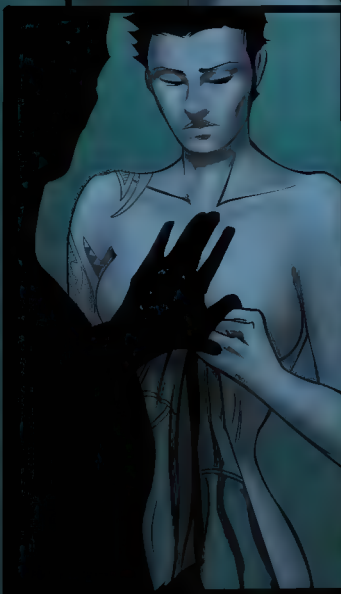
I ASSUMED YOU'D
BE UNAFRAID OF
ALL INTRUDERS.



IS THAT
WHAT YOU ARE,
AN INTRUDER? PERHAPS
I SHOULD SNAP YOUR
NECK HERE AND
NOW THEN.



I AM...



...WHATEVER
YOU WANT ME
TO BE.





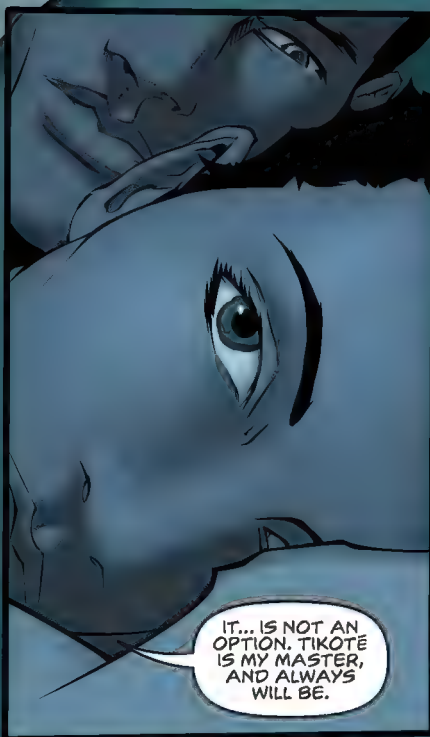
I WANT YOU.

YOU JUST HAD ME.



I MEAN ALL OF YOU.

I WANT TO FREE YOU.

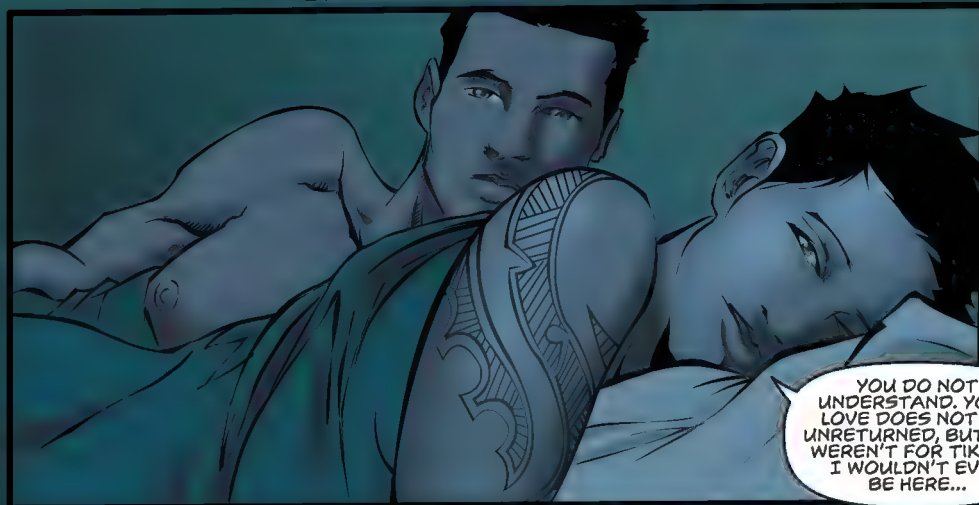


IT... IS NOT AN OPTION. TIKOTÉ IS MY MASTER, AND ALWAYS WILL BE.




WHATEVER FEELINGS YOU ARE DEVELOPING ARE FRUITLESS. I CANNOT LEAVE HIS SHADOW.

I LOVE YOU, SOPHORA. NOTHING IS FRUITLESS WHEN IT COMES TO YOU.



YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND. YOUR LOVE DOES NOT GO UNRETURNED, BUT IF IT WEREN'T FOR TIKOTÉ, I WOULDN'T EVEN BE HERE...



I HAD SPENT SIXTEEN YEARS
WITHIN THE WALLS OF THE SCHOOL,
AND FINALLY SOMEONE CHOSE
ME TO SERVE THEM.

AT FIRST, IT WASN'T WHAT I
EXPECTED. I ASSUMED ALL MASTERS WERE
OF AFFLUENT NATURE, A NECESSARY TRAIT
FOR SUCH AN EXPENSIVE PURCHASE SUCH
AS MY SERVITUDE.

HE WAS DIFFERENT,
AND HE DIDN'T SPEAK
TO ME AT FIRST.

...UNTIL WE
REACHED IT.

THE OCEAN.

I FELL IN LOVE
INSTANTLY.

ONLY IN STOLEN PICTURES
HAD I SEEN THE WATER, BUT
NOW IT SURROUNDED ME
EVERYWHERE I WENT

I KNEW THE REST OF THE
CREW BELIEVED ME A JOKE,
BUT, I PAID NO MIND TO IT. I
WAS UNDER THE CAPTAIN'S
WATCH. I WAS READY TO
SERVE HIM

...READY TO
KILL FOR HIM

CLICK



MY SCHOOL WAS ONE OF
THE BEST-- MY ABILITIES
WERE FAR BETTER THAN
ANY OF THE CREW

BANG
BANG
BANG

I SOON BECAME OUR BEST
WEAPON. OUR RIVALS NEVER
SAW ME COMING.

AND I MADE SURE I
WAS THE LAST THING
THEY EVER SAW.

SOON, I HAD
ELIMINATED ALL OF OUR
MAJOR ADVERSARIES.
THE OCEAN BELONGED
TO ME.

THAT IS WHEN I LEARNED THE TRUE COST
OF THE PLEASURES I FOUND AT SEA.



WASTE
OF F**KING
TIME. THERE'S
NOTHING HERE
OF WORTH.

KILL THEM
ALL.

WHY?
THEY DIDN'T DO
ANYTHING.



IT'S NOT
WHAT THEY'VE
DONE, IT'S WHAT
THEY'VE SEEN. ACT
LIKE YOU BELONG
AND SEE TO
YOUR TASK!



THIS LIFESTYLE...
IT REQUIRES A LACK
OF EMOTION. EVEN YEARS
OF SCHOOLING COULD NOT
ERASE MY FEELINGS. WHAT
I KNEW WAS RIGHT
AND WRONG



ALTHOUGH IT
DIDN'T MATTER.



**BANG
BANG
BANG**

THE TEARS
RETURNED
THAT DAY

MASTER... DID NOT SEEK TO
PUNISH ME FOR MY WEAKNESS

INSTEAD HE SHOWED
COMPASSION

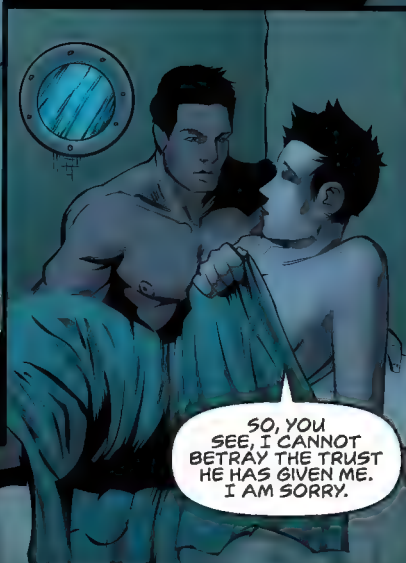
HE TOLD ME I WAS HIS
PRECIOUS FLOWER, AND
HE WOULD NEVER ALLOW
ANYTHING TO HAPPEN
TO ME

NOR DID HE
EVER TRY



HE IS
MY MASTER,
AND ALWAYS
WILL BE.

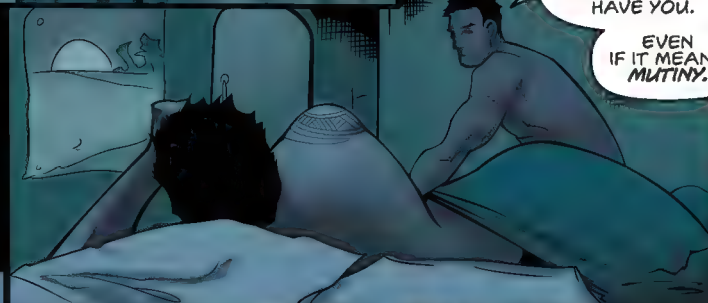
WITHOUT
HIM, I WOULD
NEVER HAVE FOUND
THE SEA. FOUND A
NEW LIFE... FOUND
YOU.



SO, YOU
SEE, I CANNOT
BETRAY THE TRUST
HE HAS GIVEN ME.
I AM SORRY.



SO AM
I...



...BECAUSE I
CANNOT LOVE
YOU AS I DO, AND
ALLOW HIM TO
HAVE YOU.

EVEN
IF IT MEANS
MUTINY.



DO NOT
SPEAK FOOLISH!
DO YOU WISH TO
SEE ME-- US--
BOTH DEAD?!

I ONLY
SEEK OUR
FREEDOM--
TOGETHER,
NO MATTER
WHAT THE
COST.



THE NEXT NIGHT...

WE SUBDUED THE
CREW FIRST, THEN
MOVE ON THE SCORE,
UNDERSTOOD?

FWOOK





IN SCHOOL, THEY
TAUGHT US ABOUT
HAZARD WARNINGS

A HAZARD WARNING IS AN EXTRA SENSE
BUILT UP OVER TIME, WHEN SOMETHING
DOES NOT FEEL RIGHT ON A MISSION

...WE ARE TAUGHT
TO REGISTER AND RELY ON
THIS SENSE TO THWART ANY
PAINFUL SURPRISES

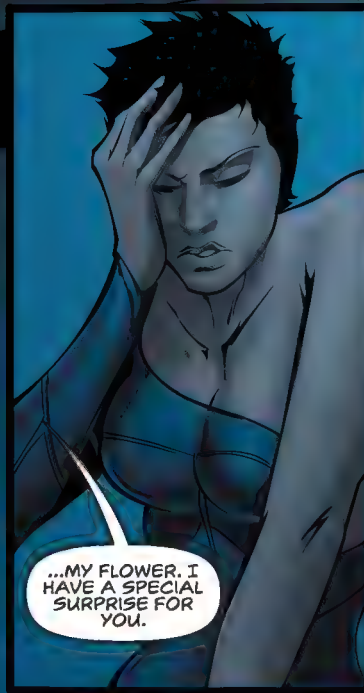
...MINE HAS
FAILED ME

THIS SHIP
IS EMPTY.
THERE'S NO
ONE--

CRACK



WAKE...



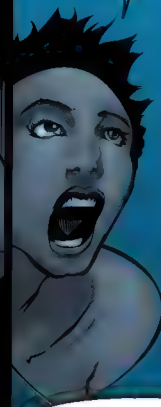
...MY FLOWER. I HAVE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR YOU.



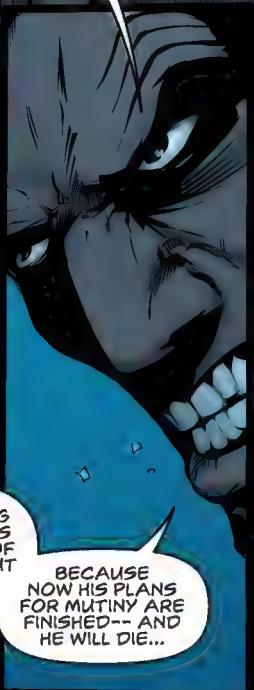
NO!

JUDGING FROM YOUR REACTION, MY SUSPICIONS ARE NOT UNFOUNDED. HAVE I NOT BEEN LOYAL TO YOU ALL THIS TIME, SOPHORA?

YES, TIKOTÉ! YOU ARE A JUST AND FORGIVING MASTER. PLEASE DO NOT HURT HIM, HE HAS DONE NOTHING. IT IS ALL MY FAULT!



LIES. YOUR LOVER CONFESSED EVERYTHING WHILE YOU WERE OUT. HIS COURAGE IN THE FACE OF DEATH IS IMPRESSIVE, BUT ALSO HIS ULTIMATE SHORTCOMING.



BECAUSE NOW HIS PLANS FOR MUTINY ARE FINISHED-- AND HE WILL DIE...



TO BE CONTINUED...

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: David Wohl (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and Michael Turner (Fathom, Hellblazer)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS #5

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**LOST
AT SEA
PART 2 OF 2**



**TONY PARKER
COVER A**

**ELIZABETH TORQUE
COVER B**



ON SALE!

BLOCKADE
ENTER BAT AS MEN

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SCIENCE FICTION
LORI "CROSS" HANSON
COLORS: MARK "RED" HENSLER

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

ASSASSIN



Vince **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
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BLOCKADE

#5

COVER A



T.H.P.

Scorpio

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

ASSASSINS



Vince **HERNANDEZ**
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ENTERTAINMENT

#5

COVER B



The story is fun

Executive Assistant Sophia's life as a pirate has finally caught up to her in deadly fashion. Her conscience has reached its breaking point, her secret love affair has ended, and she has reached the surface. But what if she has set up an ambush, aboard the sea monster cargo vessel, leading Sophia's brutal demise to kill her lover or beloved vessel?

LOST AT SEA

PART 2 OF 2

VINCE HERNANDEZ

LORI "CROSS" HANSON

JONATHAN BOLERJACK

JOHN STARR

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 5

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Now.

ONCE BELIEVED
SERVING YOUR MASTER
WAS A TASK WITHOUT
CONSCIENCE

Then.

THAT IF I WERE GIVEN AN
ORDER, I WOULD SIMPLY FOLLOW
IT WITHOUT REGRET

I WAS WRONG.

THEY WERE A PAIR OF
LOVERS IN THE WRONG PLACE
AT THE WRONG TIME

ILLEGAL STOWAWAYS ON A
SHIP THEY HAD NO BUSINESS
BEING ON. BUT, FATE MADE
THEM WITNESSES

FINISH IT.

BUT, TIKOTÉ--
--NOW!

PLEASE...

BANG
BANG
BANG



AT THE ACADEMY, THEY TEACH YOU
HOW TO BURY YOUR FEELINGS UNDER THE
WEIGHT OF YOUR MASTER'S MOTIVES

THEY TELL YOU THE ONLY THING
THAT MATTERS IS THE SATISFACTION
OF YOUR FUTURE EMPLOYER

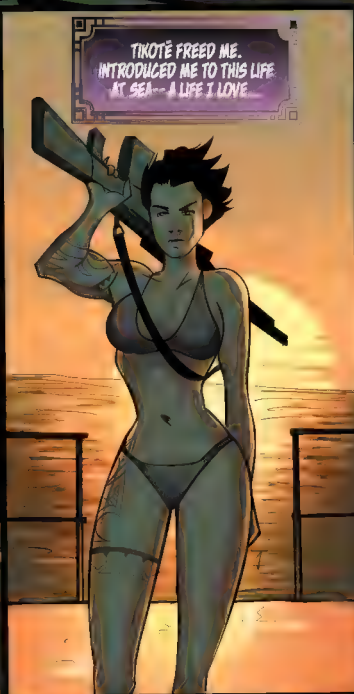
BUT, I AM
NO FOOL

I KNOW MY ACTIONS
CARRY CONSEQUENCE.
THAT GUILT CANNOT BE
STRIPPED FROM
ONE'S SOUL

EVEN IF I
ATTEMPTED TO
DROWN IT FOR
SO LONG

I PROMISED MYSELF AT
THAT MOMENT I WOULD NEVER
ALLOW MY OWN FEELINGS TO
CLOUD MY JUDGMENT

TIKOTÉ FREED ME.
INTRODUCED ME TO THIS LIFE
AT SEA-- A LIFE I LOVE



...UNTIL WHAT I
LOVE... SHIFTED

MOVE IT,
RECRUIT!

YEAH.

LONDON'S ARRIVAL
CHANGED

EVERYTHING

I IGNORED HIM AT FIRST, AS
I DID EVERY NEW RECRUIT.
MY DUTY DID NOT REQUIRE
ANY SOCIAL STANDING-- IN
FACT, TIKOTE PREFERRED
I KEPT TO MYSELF

BUT, HE WAS PERSISTENT

I'VE SEEN YOU
ON DECK. WE'VE YET
TO FORMALLY MEET--
I'M LONDON. YOU'RE
SOPHORA RIGHT?

I KNOW WHO
YOU ARE, NEW
FISH. AND SINCE
YOU ALREADY
KNOW ME...

...YOU MAY
GO.

SLAM

I WAS COLD-HEARTED THEN, BUT IT WAS ONLY ON THE SURFACE. BELOW, I WAS A MESS.

YOU ARE A MESS! CONTROL YOURSELF!

I'M SORRY TIKOTE. IT'S JUST--

--IT'S JUST NOTHING! WE ALL SHARE IN THE TASK AT HAND, WE ALL CARRY THE BURDEN AS ONE. IF YOU CANNOT PULL YOURSELF ABOVE YOUR OWN GUILT, I WILL PERSONALLY SET SAIL BACK TO THE ACADEMY TO RETURN YOU.

NO! IT'S... I AM UNDER CONTROL... I PROMISE, TIKOTE.

IT WAS A LIE.

AND ONLY ONE PERSON COULD SENSE IT.

IT'S OKAY TO FEEL SOMETHING, YOU KNOW.


LEAVE ME ALONE.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO DISTURB YOU... IT'S ONLY-- YOU LOOK LIKE YOU COULD USE SOMEONE TO TALK TO. I KNOW THAT SOUNDS CLICHE.

WELL... YOU ALREADY KNOW I'M NOT GOOD AT THAT. OR HAVE YOU MISSED THE CREW BARKING ORDERS AT ME OVER AND OVER?

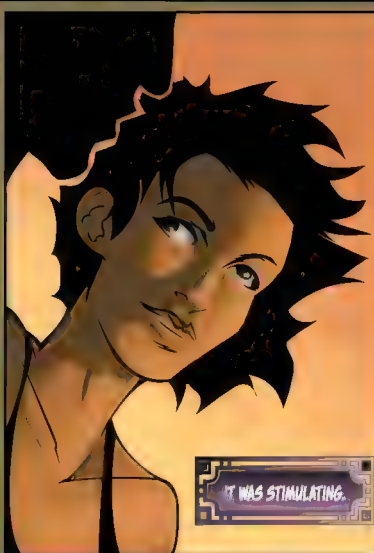
HOW ABOUT SOMEONE TO LISTEN?

HEH. NOT HARD TO MISS.




I FOUND HIM
LISTENING MORE
AND MORE TO WHAT
I HAD TO SAY


I'D NEVER BEEN
ACCUSTOMED TO
ANOTHER PERSON TAKING
AN INTEREST IN ME



IT WAS STIMULATING.



I HAD GROWN NUMB, FROZEN FROM MY
MISDEEDS. BUT HE MADE ME FEEL AGAIN. I
HAD NEVER FELT SUCH A FEELING BEFORE.



NOW, I KNOW
WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO
THINK IT COULD EVER
END WELL

SEE TO
IT.

UNDERSTOOD,
CAPTAIN.



Now.

A FOOL INDEED.

YOU CHOSE
THIS FATE-- NOW
DEAL WITH THE
RESULT OF YOUR
DECISION.

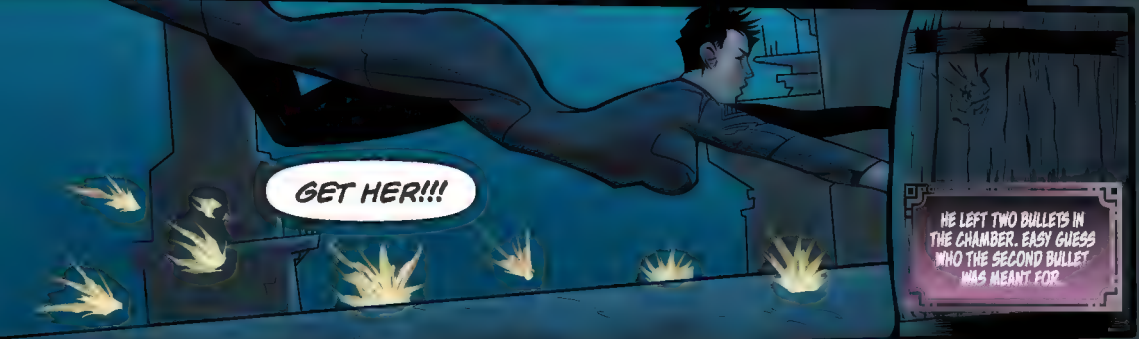
TIKOTÉ, PLEASE.
I TRIED TO WARN HIM.
TRIED TO GET HIM TO
STOP BEFORE--

--TELL ME, SOPHORA.
HOW AM I TO TRUST YOU
FROM THIS POINT ON? I
PRACTICALLY RAISED YOU.
GAVE YOU NEW LIFE-- AND
THIS IS THE REPAYMENT
FOR MY ACTIONS? WHAT
WOULD YOU DO?!

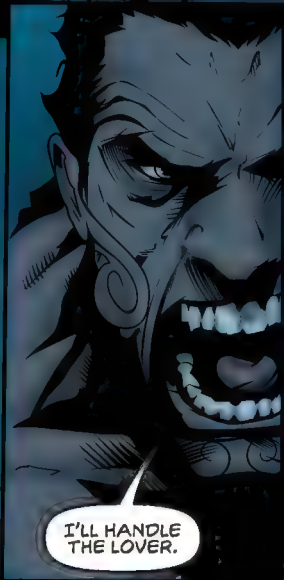
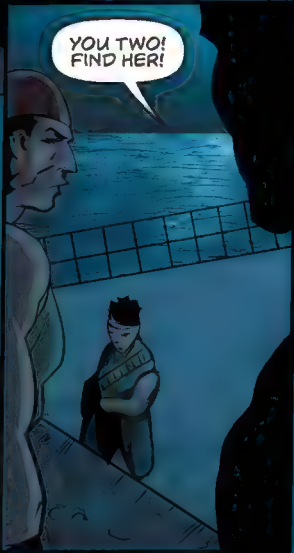
YOU'RE...

...RIGHT.

BANG



I MUST DO SOMETHING.
LONDON IS NOT TRAINED FOR
THIS. HE WON'T MAKE IT.



GOT TO GET TO THE
LOWER DECK OF THE SHIP.
TIGHTER QUARTERS IF I
HOPE TO SURVIVE.

SPLIT UP!
I'LL TAKE THIS
END. GRAB HER
FLANK.

THEY'RE GOING TO TAKE BOTH
ENDS OF THE SHIP AND TRY TO
SQUEEZE ME OUT -- IT'S WHAT
I WOULD DO WITH PREY.

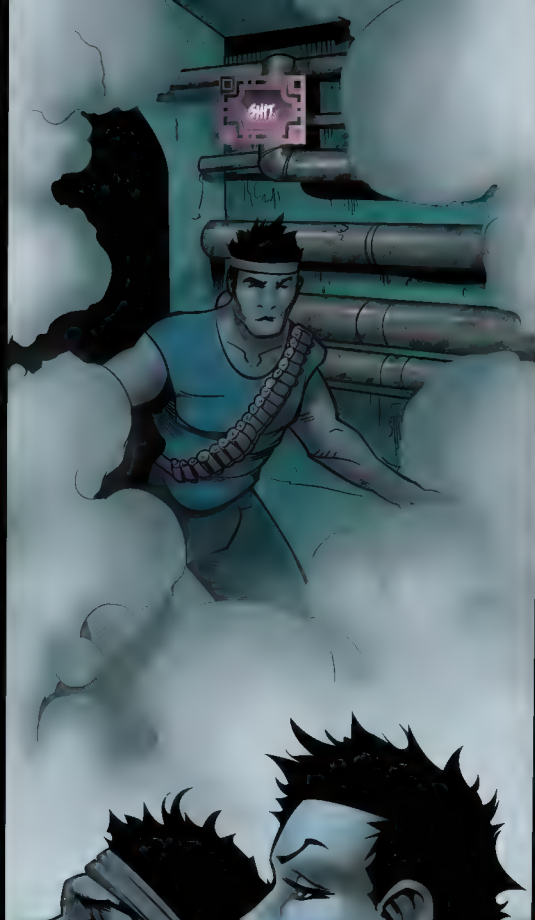
AND THAT IS WHAT I
AM NOW, PREY. I MUST
ACT ACCORDINGLY.

PERFECT

CRACK

PS
SSSSSSSSSHHHHHHHH

I NEED TO
DISARM THE FIRST
ONE, INCAPACITATE
THEM WITH BRUTE
FORCE



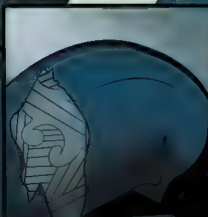
GRRNN!

GANO---
WHAT ARE YOU
DOING?!

HRRNGH...
WHAT AM...
I DOING?! YOU
TWO ARE THE
MUTINIOUS
ONES!

THAT IS... NOT
WHAT IS GOING ON!
I'M NOT GOING TO
HURT YOU!

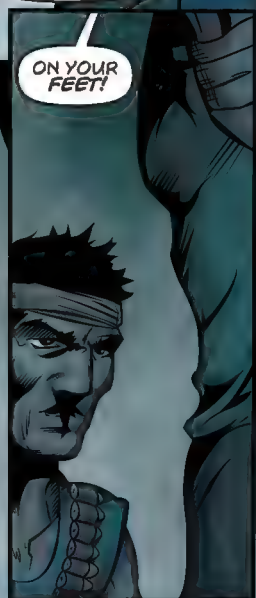
HOLD
STILL!



ON YOUR FEET, GANO.

I'M ~~COUGH~~ UP.

IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO FINALLY DIE, WOMAN. THIS LIFE WAS NEVER MEANT FOR YOU.



ON YOUR FEET!

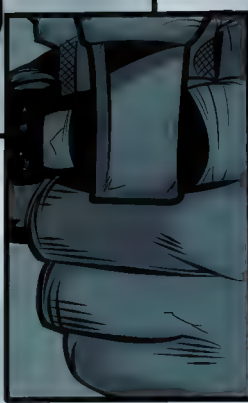


THIS IS HOW YOU ALWAYS IMAGINED IT WOULD END FOR ME, AM I RIGHT MARKEL?

IT MUST PLEASE YOU.



VERY MUCH SO.





NO!



SHE IS MY...
FRIEND!



YOU HAVE NO
FRIENDS OUT HERE!
YOU HAVE LOST YOUR
WAY! YOU BOTH
WILL--



FOOLISH BOY!
WHAT IS YOUR
PROBLEM?!



THUK

--HNNHH!



YOU ARE THE
ONE WHO HAS LOST HIS
WAY, MARKEL. YOU PLACE
THIS LIFESTYLE ABOVE THAT
OF YOUR BROTHER'S LIFE. IT IS
TIME YOU ARE TAUGHT THE
FALSEHOOD OF YOUR
CHOICES.



ENOUGH!

MY THOUGHTS
EXACTLY!

WHACK

THOK

UNNGH!

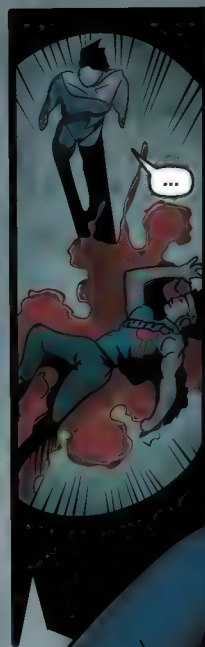
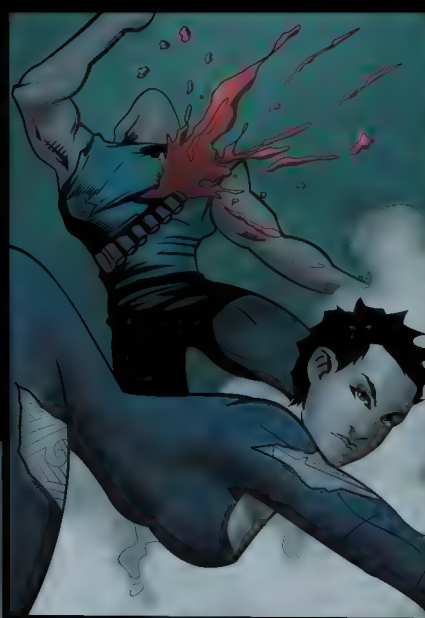
THUD

YOU
SHOULD'VE
WATCHED OUR
TRAINING...

CRASH

...IT WOULD'VE
SAVED YOUR
LIFE!

NO!





YOU
CAN'T HIDE,
TRAITOR!



BEHIND
YOU, BOY!

KRUK

HRRRGH!



GRAB
HIM!



YOUR
LOVER--

--IS DEAD!
AND SOON, YOU
WILL SHARE
HER--



BANG



WHAT?!



YOU SHOULD
HAVE TRUSTED
ME.

I HAD NO
THOUGHTS OF
MUTINY.


DON'T GIVE HIM AN
EXPLANATION--

--SHUT
UP!

NO MATTER
WHAT HE SAID, NO
MATTER WHAT YOU THINK
YOU KNOW-- YES, I DID
FALL FOR HIM. YES, I WAS
UNHAPPY AND YES I DO
CARRY GUILT FOR MY
PAST ACTIONS.

YET, I
AM LOYAL ABOVE
ALL ELSE. YOU GAVE
ME THIS LIFE AND I
WOULD NEVER HAVE
BETRAYED YOU.


YOU SHOULD
HAVE KNOWN
THIS!



IT IS
OVER... END
IT, NOW.

NO...

...I AM NOT
YOU. I WILL NOT
KILL YOU. THAT WOULD
BE TOO EASY-- AND
ONLY ADD TO MY
REMORSE.



I AM
BETTER THAN
THAT!

AHHHH!



SPLASH



YOU LET
HIM GO...
WHY?

I ONCE BELIEVED SERVING
YOUR MASTER WAS A TASK
WITHOUT CONSCIENCE.

LATER...

...AND I WAS
RIGHT

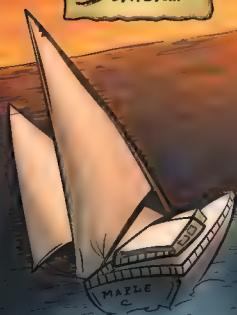
THAT IS WHY I
NO LONGER SERVE
ANYONE

MY ACTIONS
LED TO THIS...

...BECAUSE I WAS NOT IN
CONTROL OF THEM-- PEOPLE DIED.
GOOD PEOPLE WHO DESERVED A
BETTER FATE. I WILL NEVER MAKE
THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN.

IT IS TIME FOR
A CHANGE

SOME TIME
LATER...



YAWN



SOPHORA?



IT WASN'T AN EASY
CHOICE TO LEAVE THEM
BOTH BEHIND.

TO ABANDON EVERYTHING
I HELD DEAR.

BUT, THAT IS WHAT THEY DON'T TEACH
YOU IN THE ACADEMY. WHAT YOU MUST LEARN
BY YOURSELF TO LIVE ON YOUR OWN, YOU
MUST BE WILLING TO BE ALONE.



...IN ORDER TO
TRULY BE FREE

END

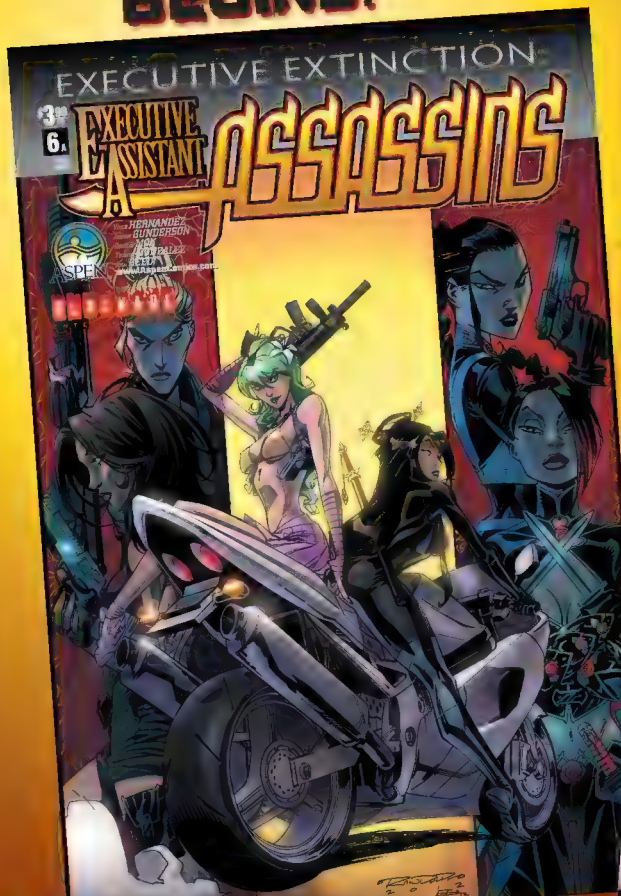
**THE
EXECUTIVE
EXTINCTION
EVENT
BEGINS!**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

Story by **VINCE HERNANDEZ**
Pencils by **JORDAN GUNDERSON**
Inks by **CHARLIE MOK**
Colors by **TEO GONZALEZ**

#6

**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT: IRIS
RETURNS!**



EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION CHECKLIST

PART ONE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #6
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #1

PART TWO

- ☐ EA: Assassins #7
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #2

PART THREE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #8
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #3

PART FOUR

- ☐ EA: Assassins #9
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #4

PART FIVE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #10
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #5

Aspen's Inter-Series Ten Part Event
"EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION"

Continues Next Month!



EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT #1

Story by **DAVID WOHL**
Pencils & Inks by **ALEX LEI**
Colors by **TEODORO GONZALEZ**

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10 FOR 10

10 New Aspen Books For Aspen's 10th Year Anniversary!

Begins February 2013

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ASSISTANT

ASSASSINS



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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#6

COVER A



2012

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS



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Tendron **GONZALEZ**
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ENTERTAINMENT

#**6**

COVER B



HYMAN ©

Previously in 'Life After Death' Executive Assistant Lily thought that fighting her way past the demons of her past was the only way to move forward. But now she has found the one person who can help her face her fears—especially her fear of guns. And she's not alone. Her arms dealer is a former Marine who has

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION

PART 1 OF 5

VINCE HERNANDEZ

JORDAN GUNDERSON

MARK ROSLAN

TEODORO GONZALEZ

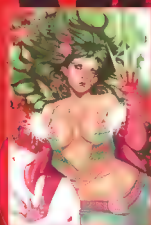
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TOKYO, JAPAN.

HE WAS ONE OF
OUR ASSOCIATES,
YES. HE WAS A
GOOD MAN.

THE PANCACKED GUY DEAD
ON THE PAVEMENT WORKED
FOR A POWER PLAYER
NAMED MAZUTSU.

THAT SAME POWER PLAYER ALSO WANTS ME
TAKEN OUT AS WELL. HE'S TRIED TWICE BEFORE...
THE DEAD BODY ON THE GROUND REPRESENTING
HIS SECOND FAILED ATTEMPT.

HOW WELL
DID YOU KNOW
HIM, MISS?

VERY.

WE BOTH
WORKED FOR THE
SAME EMPLOYER. HE
WAS LIKE A BROTHER
TO ME.

MY BOSS
WILL NOT TAKE
THIS WELL.

BRING
BRING



I MUST
TAKE THIS. PLEASE
EXCUSE ME.

NOT A
PROBLEM.
WE'LL BE IN
TOUCH.

OF COURSE,
ANYTHING I
CAN DO TO HELP,
PLEASE DO NOT
HESITATE TO
ASK.



SIR.

YES, IT IS TARVER...
HE SUFFERED SEVERE
BRAIN CONTUSIONS
FROM THE FALL. DIED
ON IMPACT.

YES, SIR. I
UNDERSTAND.

A WOMAN I KNOW
ALL TOO WELL.



I NEED TO GET TO MAZUTSU
BEFORE HE MAKES HIS THIRD
ATTEMPT ON ME--AND LILAC
IS THE KEY.



LONDON, ENGLAND



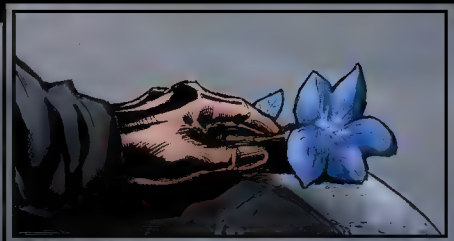
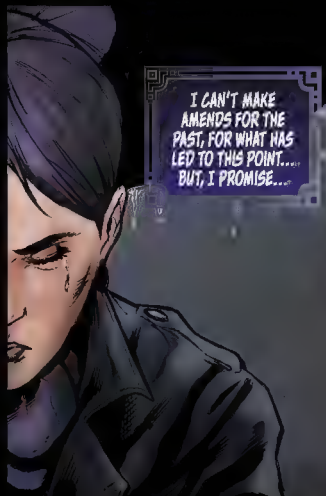
I FAILED YOU.



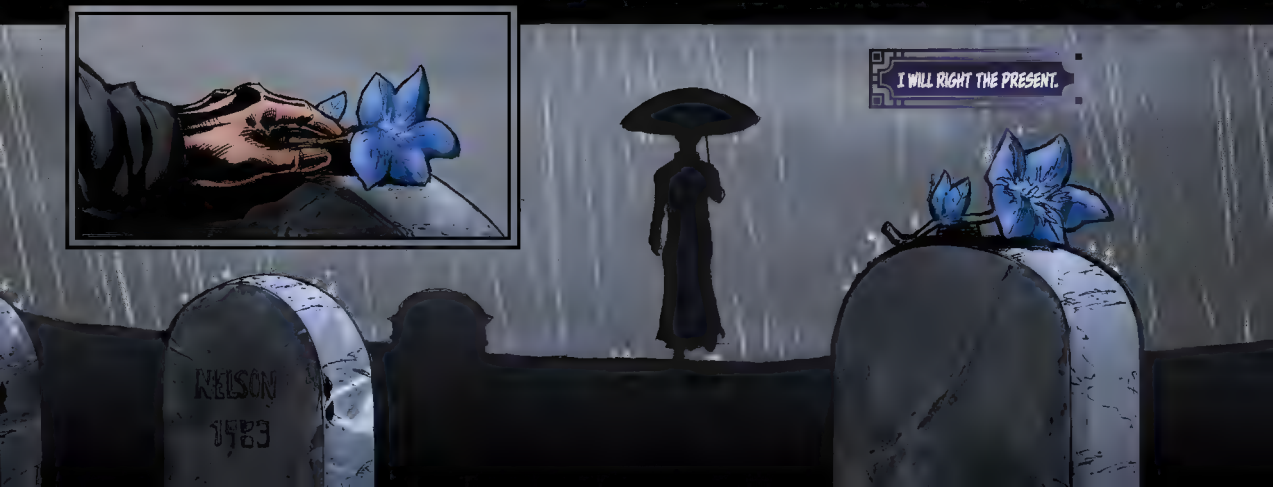
VIVIAN
WILSHIRE

I SHOULD HAVE PROTECTED YOU AS A MOTHER,
AS MY ONLY DAUGHTER. INSTEAD I INTRODUCED
YOU TO THIS LIFE-- AND LED YOU TO THIS.

I CAN'T MAKE
AMENDS FOR THE
PAST, FOR WHAT HAS
LED TO THIS POINT...
BUT, I PROMISE...



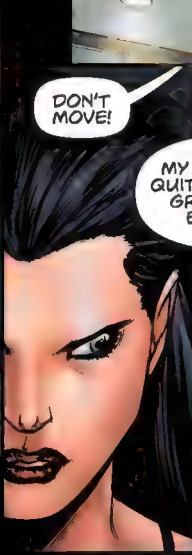
I WILL RIGHT THE PRESENT.





TOKYO, JAPAN.

LATER THAT NIGHT.



DON'T
MOVE!

I'M IMPRESSED.
MY SECURITY MEASURES ARE
QUITE ADVANCED AND REQUIRE
GREAT SKILL TO OVERCOME,
EVEN FOR AN EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT--

--ESPECIALLY
ONE OF MY WORST
STUDENTS.



THE TECH IS MORE
ADVANCED TO BREAK,
BUT THE THEORY'S STILL
THE SAME. IT JUST REQUIRES
PATIENCE AND PLANNING. YOU
TAUGHT ME THAT AS WELL,
SO REALLY, YOU SHOULD
BE PROUD.

YOUR
LESSON
STUCK.

DON'T
FORGET-- I HAD
YOU EXPELLED FOR
A REASON.

LOOK AT YOU,
YOU'RE A FAILURE.
TWO ACADEMIES,
TWO CHANCES TO
SUCCEED AND YOU
WERE BANISHED FROM
BOTH. YOU COULD NOT
EVEN PROTECT YOUR
MASTER AND CAN
BARELY PROTECT
YOURSELF!



AND NOW YOU
THINK YOU HAVE
OUTSMARTED ME,
BUT YOU HAVE
FORGOTTEN--

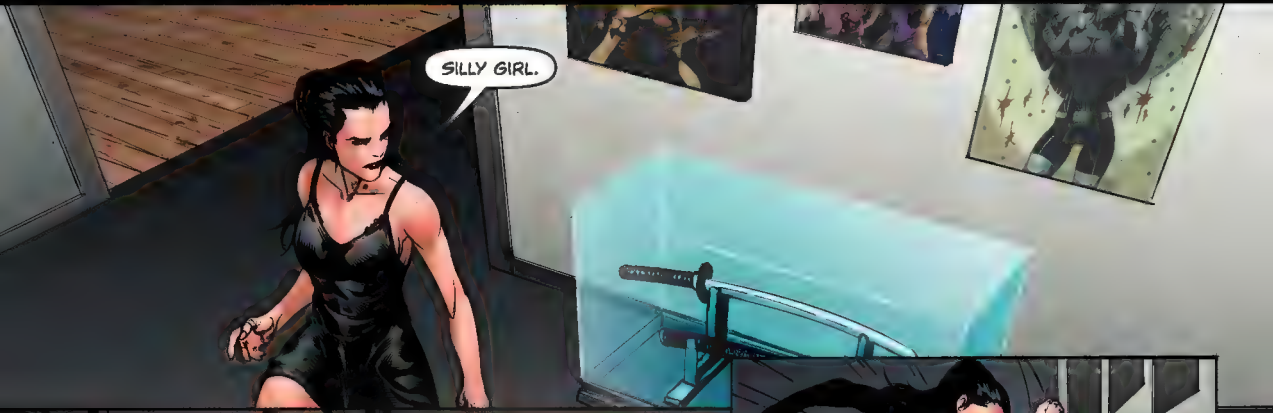




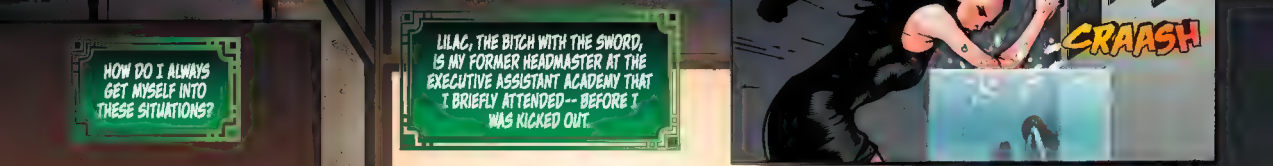
--I AM THE TEACHER!

GRRRAAAWR

...



SILLY GIRL.



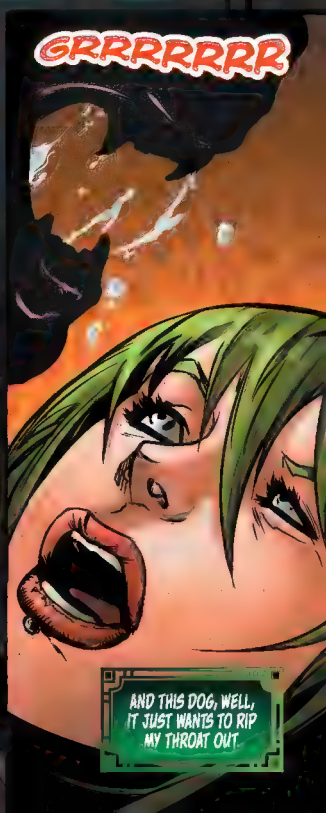
CRAASH



GOOD BOY. SHOW HER WHAT WE DO TO INTRUDERS!

GRRRRRRRR

GRRRRRRRR



AND THIS DOG, WELL, IT JUST WANTS TO RIP MY THROAT OUT.

HOW DO I ALWAYS GET MYSELF INTO THESE SITUATIONS?

LILAC, THE BITCH WITH THE SWORD, IS MY FORMER HEADMASTER AT THE EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ACADEMY THAT I BRIEFLY ATTENDED-- BEFORE I WAS KICKED OUT.



NNNNNGHH...
SORRY...

BANG

BITCH!
THE DOG'S
DEATH-- THAT'S
ON YOU.

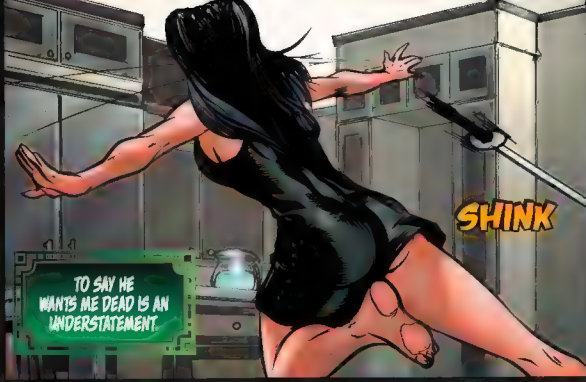
YOU'RE
DEATH-- THAT'LL
BE ON ME!

BANG

SHE SERVES AND PROTECTS A GUY NAMED MAZUTSU. AN ARMS DEALER WITH INFINITE RESOURCES.



CHING



SHINK

TO SAY HE WANTS ME DEAD IS AN UNDERSTATEMENT.



THUNK



BANG

SO, I FIGURED I WOULD SAVE THEM BOTH THE TROUBLE AND FIND HER FIRST.



MAYBE I SHOULD HAVE THOUGHT THIS ALL THROUGH BEFOREHAND, THOUGH.



THUD



YOU CANNOT DEFEAT ME ALONE, LILY. I AM TOO WELL TRAINED.

CRACK

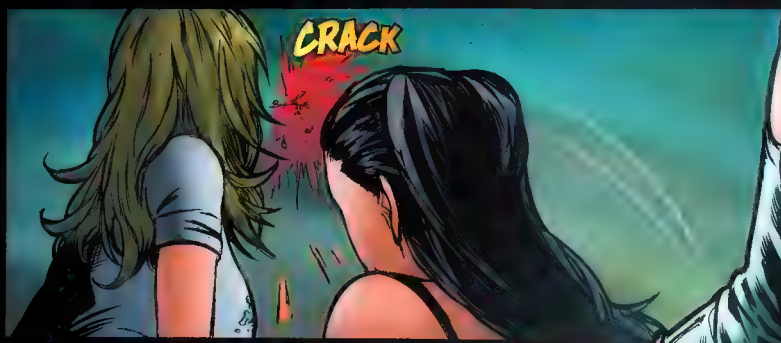


SHIIING



HRAAAAAH!

YEAH, THAT WOULD'VE BEEN A BETTER IDEA.





--GASP! YOU--



--HAVE NO...



...IDEA...

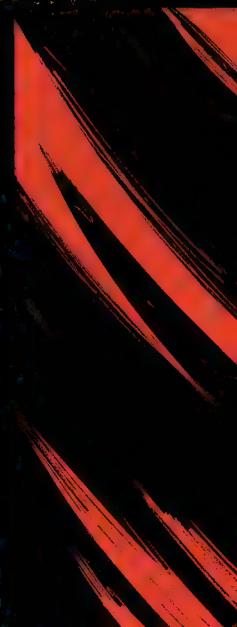
ARRRRRGGGGGHHH!!!

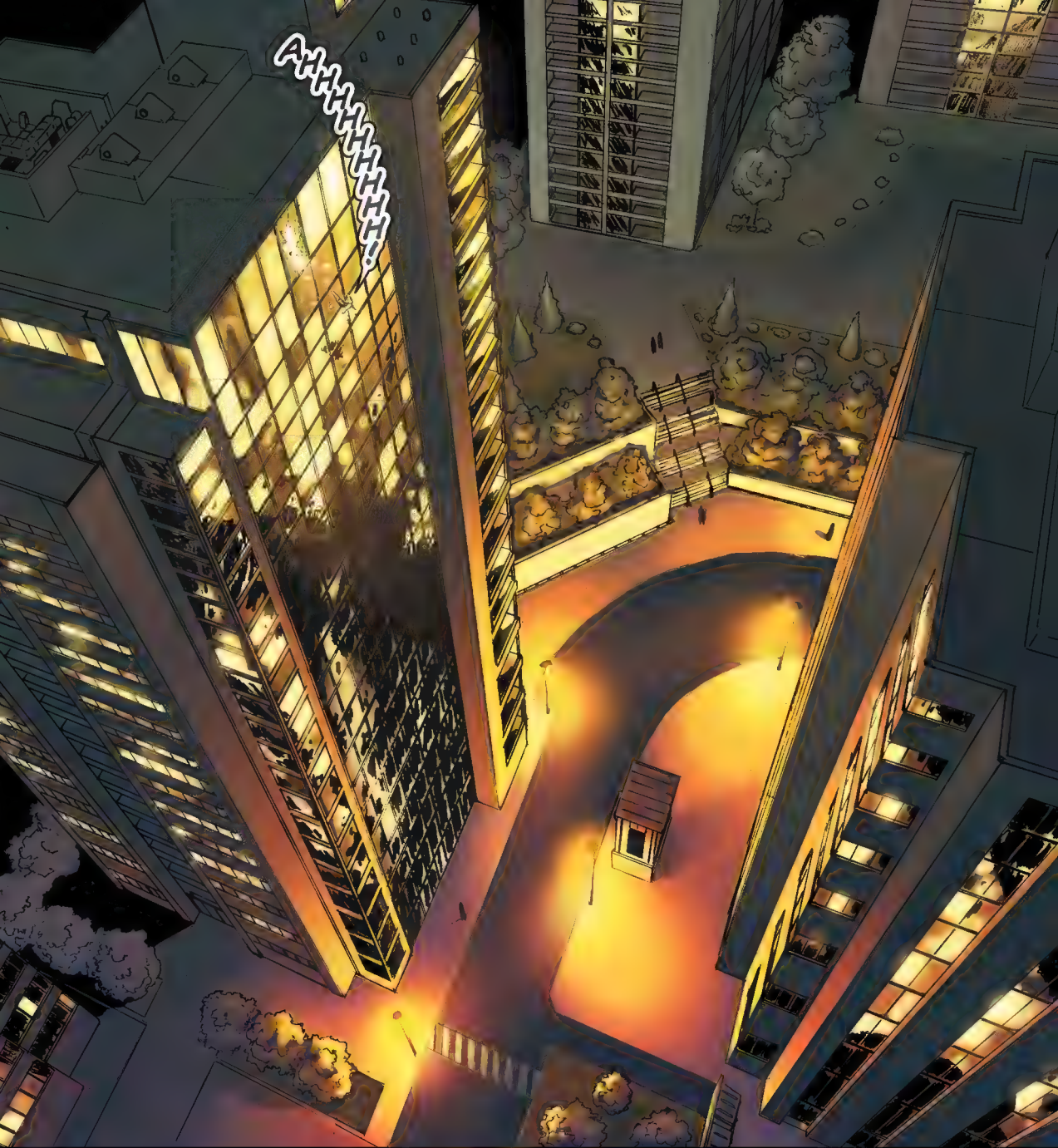


UNNH!



CRASH





TOKYO, JAPAN.

THE FIRING CHAMBER IS STILL NOT REACTING WITH THE RECOIL AS WE'D HOPED, BUT WE'RE CERTAIN IT WILL BE READY FOR PROTOTYPE TESTING BY THE END OF THE WEEK.

MAKE SURE THAT IT IS.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP



YES.



YOUR GIRL IS DEAD. I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD HEAR IT FROM ME FIRST.



LILY, I PRESUME. SO, WE FINALLY SPEAK. YOU ARE QUICKLY BECOMING MORE TROUBLE THAN YOU ARE WORTH. LILAC WAS A VALUABLE ASSET TO ME.

THEN GIVE UP. YOU'LL NEVER FIND ME.



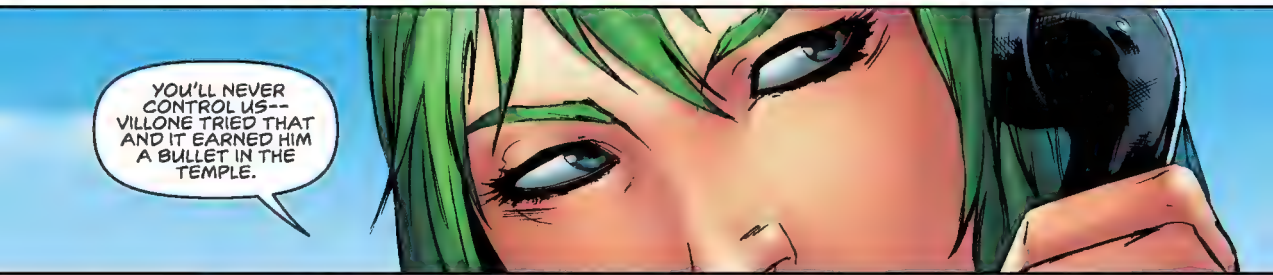
AH, BUT YOU SEE, THAT IS WHERE YOU ARE INCORRECT. YOU MAY HAVE KILLED LILAC... AS WELL AS TARVER, BUT TO MISTAKE ME FOR ONE OF THEM WOULD BE A GROSS MISCALCULATION.





I WILL NEVER
STOP HUNTING
YOU-- OR
YOUR KIND.

LILAC WAS
SIMPLY A MEANS TO
AN END. HER DEATH WAS
AN EVENTUALITY AS YOURS
IS AS WELL. YOU EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANTS ALL SHARE A
SIMILAR FATE. YOU ARE
WEAPONS TO BE USED
AS I SEE FIT.

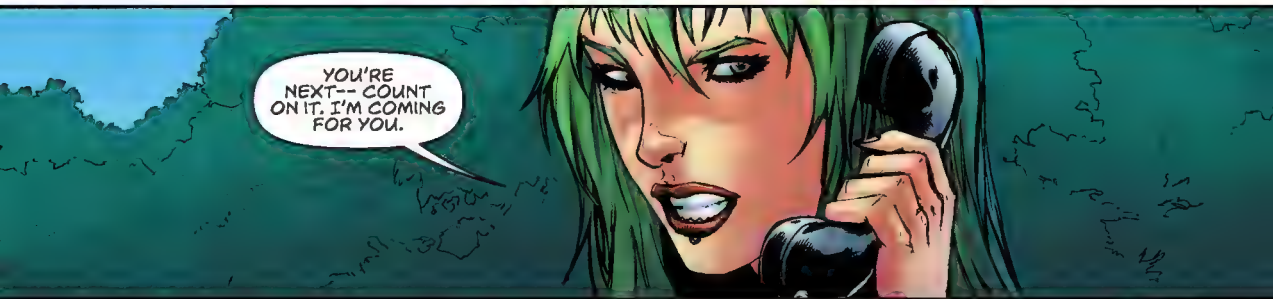


YOU'LL NEVER
CONTROL US--
VILLONE TRIED THAT
AND IT EARNED HIM
A BULLET IN THE
TEMPLE.



MEANS TO
AN END.

I ALREADY DO
CONTROL YOU, LILY.
YOU JUST HAVE YET
TO REALIZE IT.

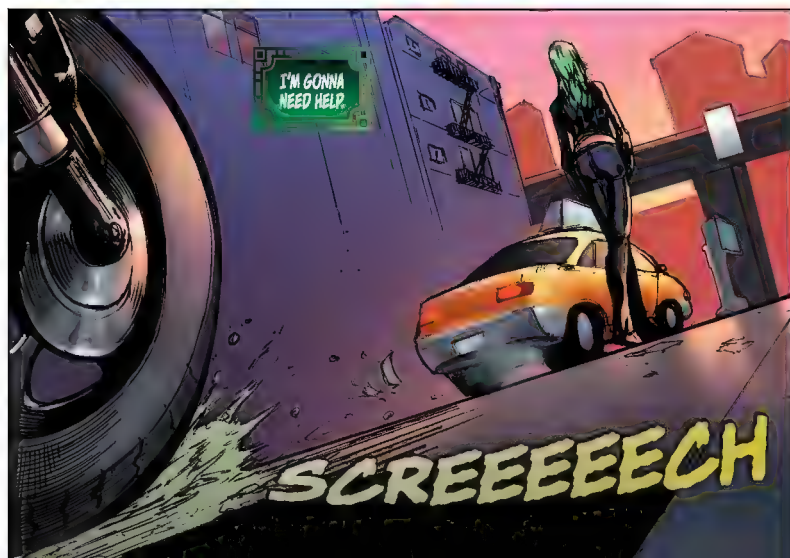


YOU'RE
NEXT-- COUNT
ON IT. I'M COMING
FOR YOU.

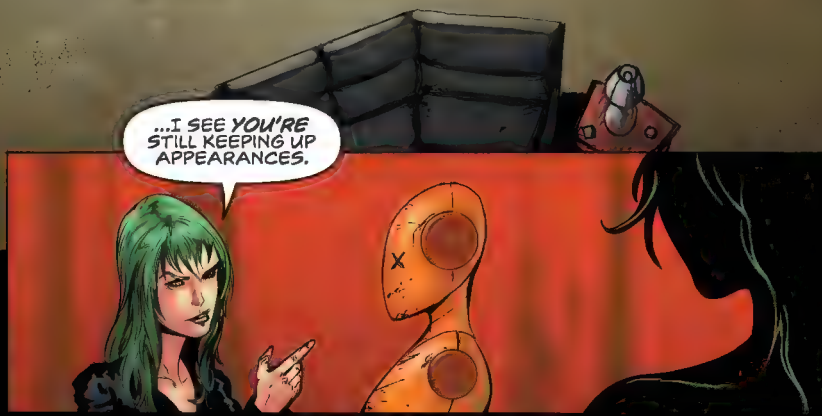


I LOOK
FORWARD TO THE
CHALLENGE.

APOLOGIES FOR
THE INTERRUPTION,
PLEASE CONTINUE.











NOOO.

LILY-- WAIT!

AT LEAST LET ME EXPLAIN WHY I'M WORKING WITH THEM. I THINK WE CAN HELP--

SORRY, IRIS. BESIDES THE TRUST ISSUES I HAVE WITH THEM, THE LAST PERSON FROM THE CIA WHO HELPED ME OUT ENDED UP DEAD.

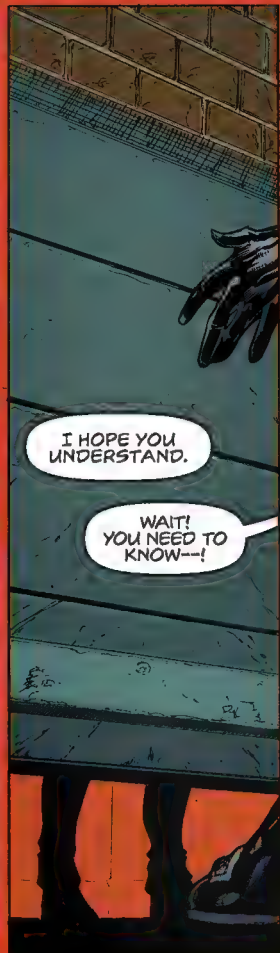
THIS IS A DIFFERENT SITUATION. BELIEVE ME!

LOOK, YOU DON'T HAVE TO EXPLAIN. WE ALL NEEDED TO FIND OUR WAY AFTER WHAT HAPPENED-- I GET IT.

BUT I PLAN TO KILL MAZUTSU, AND I CAN'T HAVE THAT TYPE OF HEAT AROUND ME. NOT NOW.

I HOPE YOU UNDERSTAND.

WAIT! YOU NEED TO KNOW--!



DAMMIT!

SHINJUKU DISTRICT,
COUNTY MORGUE.

1 DAY EARLIER.

I'M SURPRISED
YOU ACCEPTED MY
INVITATION TO
MEET HERE--

--AMONGST
THE DEAD.

I CAME TO
PAY MY RESPECTS
TO LILAC...

...AND OFFER
MY SERVICES.

I MUST
WARN YOU,
EVERY ASSOCIATE
BEFORE YOU MET
THE SAME FATE
AS THIS TRYING
TO KILL HER.

YES, BUT I
HAVE SOMETHING
THEY DON'T--



--I HAVE
HER TRUST.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE
**EXECUTIVE
EXTINCTION**
EVENT
CONTINUES!

**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT** #1
iris



Aspen's Inter-Series Ten Part Event
"EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION"

Continues in...

**EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION
CHECKLIST**

DECEMBER 2012

- ☒ EA: Assassins #6
- ☒ EA: Iris (vol.3) #1

JANUARY 2013

- ☐ EA: Assassins #7
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #2

FEBRUARY 2013

- ☐ EA: Assassins #8
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #3

MARCH 2013

- ☐ EA: Assassins #9
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #4

APRIL 2013

- ☐ EA: Assassins #10
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #5

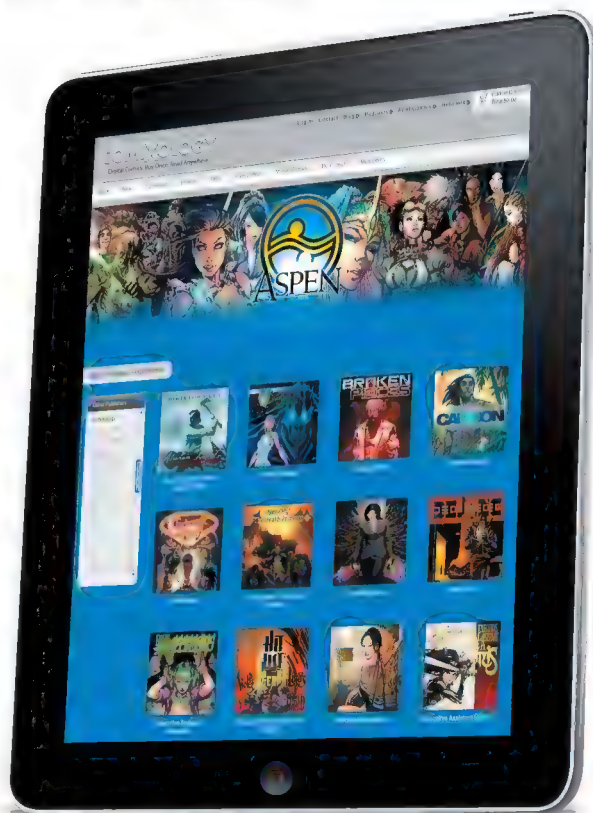
**EXECUTIVE
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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

7

COVER A



GUNDERSON
SOTELO



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#7

COVER B



The story so far

After finding and killing Lilac, Maztus's Executive Assistant, Lily journeyed to New York City seeking the help of her remaining allies. Choosing the path of a lone assassin, she took on a new mission: when the time came, she would strike for the CIA. Choosing to continue her search alone, Lily is aware that another of her old allies faces a time in the limo as well—and she is the target.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION!

PART 2 OF 5

WRITTEN BY

VINCE HERNANDEZ

DESIGNED BY

JORDAN GUNDERSON

ILLUSTRATED BY

MARK ROSLAN

COLORS BY

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING BY

JOSH REED



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BETH SOTELO



B: DIRECT EDITION
EMILIO LAISO
BETH SOTELO



C: RETAILER/EXECUTIVE
ASSASSIN EDITION
ELIZABETH TEXEIRA

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Fox, and Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO | Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DRRAMER DESIGN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 7

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THOSE EYES...



CENTRAL PARK ZOO.

...I SEE FIERCENESS IN THEM. UNADULTERATED HUNGER FOR BLOOD.



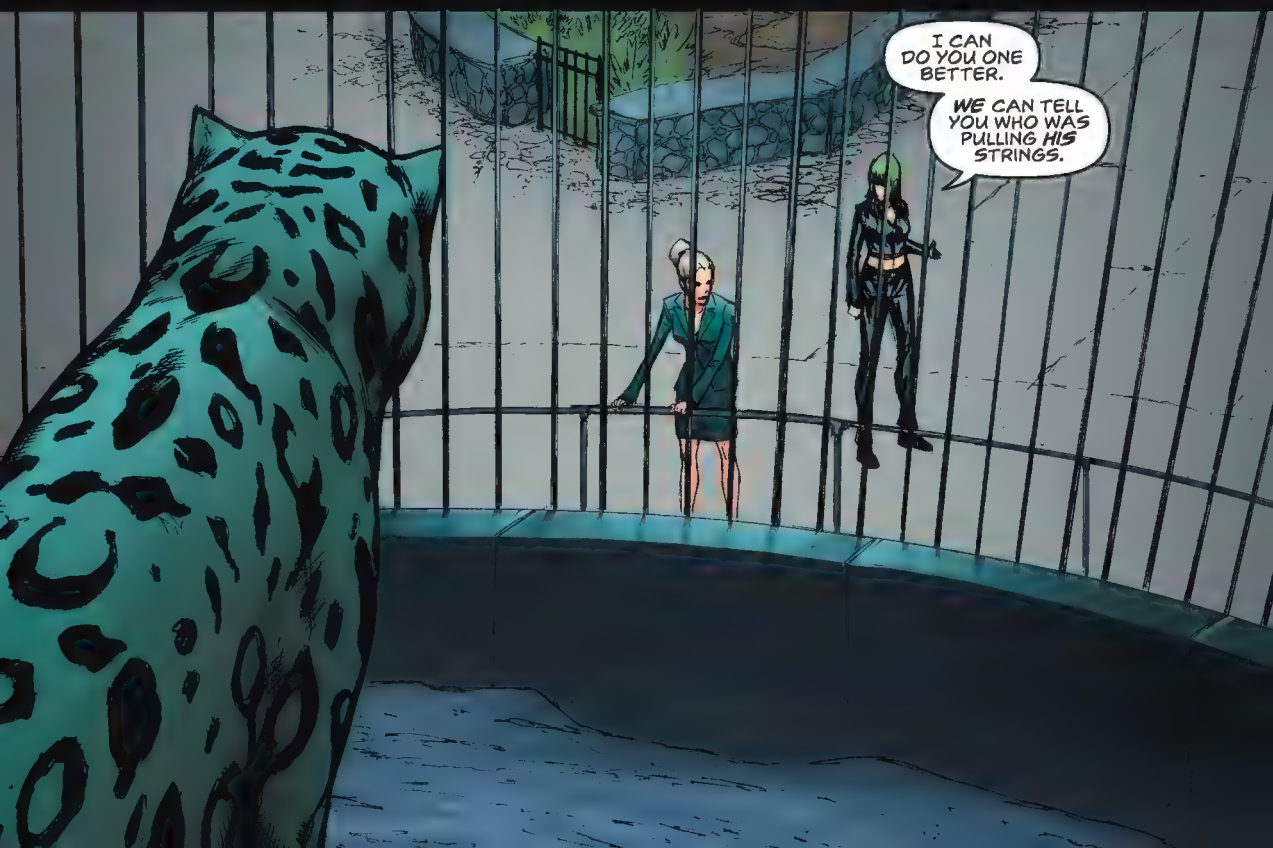
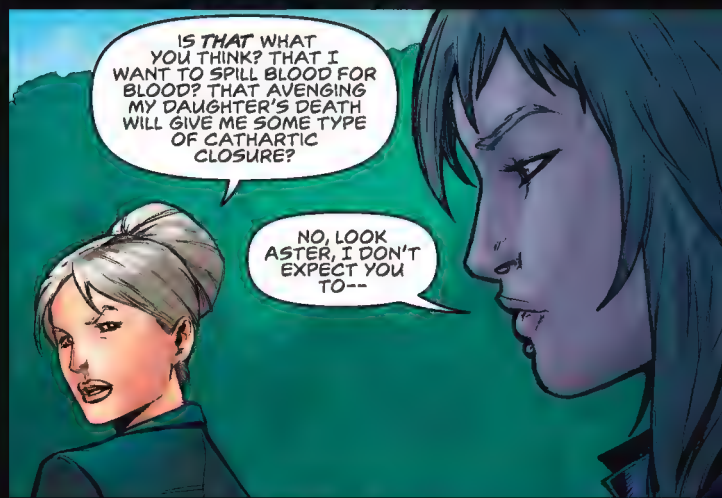
WE ARE THE SAME.



ARE WE?

I MEANT THE LEOPARD AND I. NOT YOU AND I.

YOU **EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS**, THESE DAYS, YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE HONOR AND DISCIPLINE INVOLVED IN THE ACT. WHAT IT MEANS TO BE THE PREDATOR. IT'S A SHAME, REALLY.






ORCHID?

YOU'RE
MIXED UP IN
THIS ALSO?

I HAVE
MY REASONS. MY
MIND... THE MICRO
CHIP, SINCE IT WAS
REMOVED--




--WELL, LET'S
JUST SAY I NEED
TO FIND ANSWERS
TO WHAT THE HELL
THEY PUT IN ME, OR
I'LL NEVER BE THE
SAME AGAIN.



SO VILLONE?
HE WASN'T
THE MAN AT
THE TOP?

HARDLY.

CAN IT *EVER*
JUST BE BLACK
AND WHITE? I
GROW TIRED OF
LIVING IN THE
GRAY.



IT CAN. AND THIS
IS YOUR CHANCE. I'M BEING
HUNTED BY HIS BOSS, A MAN NAMED
MAZUTSU. AND QUITE FRANKLY--
WE ALL ARE. NO SOONER WILL HE BE
DONE WITH ME BEFORE HE COMES
LOOKING FOR YOU TWO.

THIS IS OUR ONLY
OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE
IT TO HIM, BEFORE IT'S TOO
LATE. ORCHID CAN GET HER
ANSWERS. YOU CAN GET
CLOSURE.



BUT, WE
NEED YOUR
HELP, ASTER.
YOU'RE MORE
SKILLED THAN
ALL OF US.

WE
CAN'T DO
IT WITHOUT
YOU.





I TAKE OFFENSE TO THAT: MY LOYALTY TO MY PEOPLE HAS NEVER BEEN QUESTIONED. IF YOU HELP ME TAKE THE REST OF THEM OUT, I WILL RETURN THE FAVOR IN KIND-- WELL, YOUR CHIP I MEAN. NOT YOU.

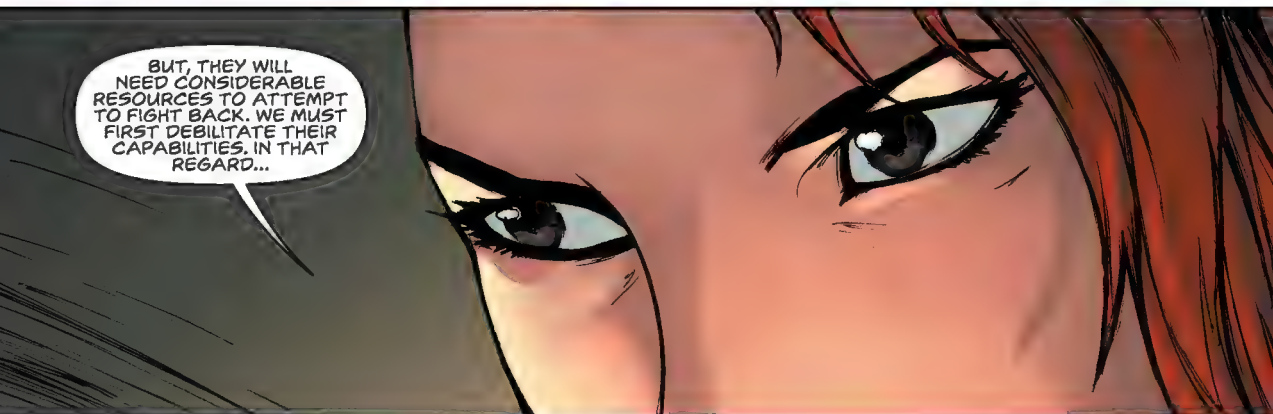


NOW... WE MUST DECIDE WHICH OF THEM WILL GO FIRST.

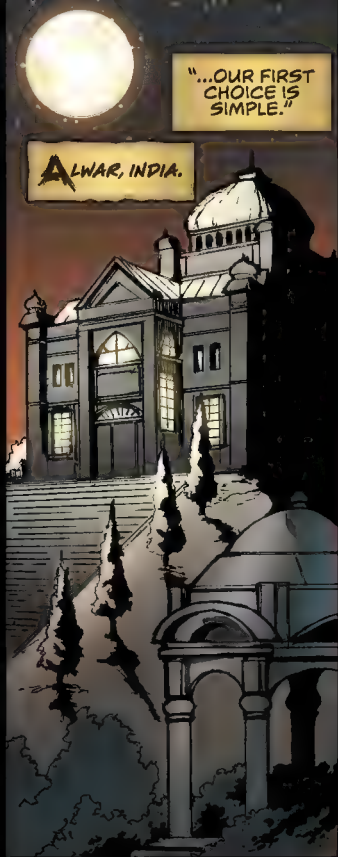


WELL, OBVIOUSLY THEY ARE ALL DANGEROUS IN THEIR OWN REGARD, BUT HER-- SHE COULD BE A HUGE PROBLEM.

THE GIRLS WILL MOST LIKELY LOOK TO GROUP UP, CONSIDERING OUR INTEL TELLS US LILY IS IN THE STATES.



BUT, THEY WILL NEED CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TO ATTEMPT TO FIGHT BACK. WE MUST FIRST DEBILITATE THEIR CAPABILITIES. IN THAT REGARD...

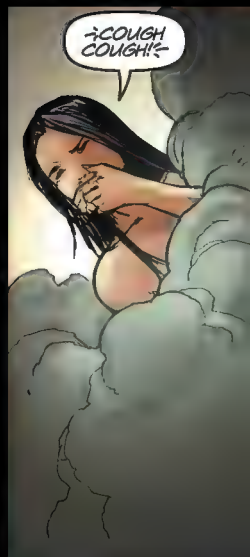
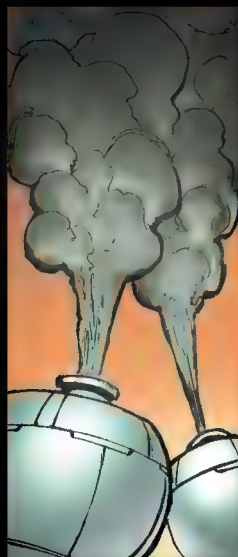
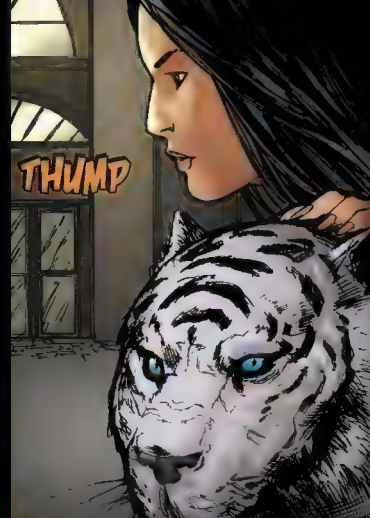


"...OUR FIRST
CHOICE IS
SIMPLE."



GRRRRRRRRRRR







YOUR STUN
GRENADES ARE
VERY ADVANCED--
IMPRESSIVE.

DON'T
MOVE.



YOU REALLY
THINK I'M GOING
TO FOLLOW THAT
ADVICE?

NO--



--BUT
IT SLOWED
YOU DOWN
ENOUGH!

FWICK



AHHHHHH!

WAIT... THIS
DAGGER--



--ROSEN?!

IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU, LOTUS. I THOUGHT I'D MAKE IT A SURPRISE ENTRANCE. I DO LOVE SURPRISES.

BUT-- WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!

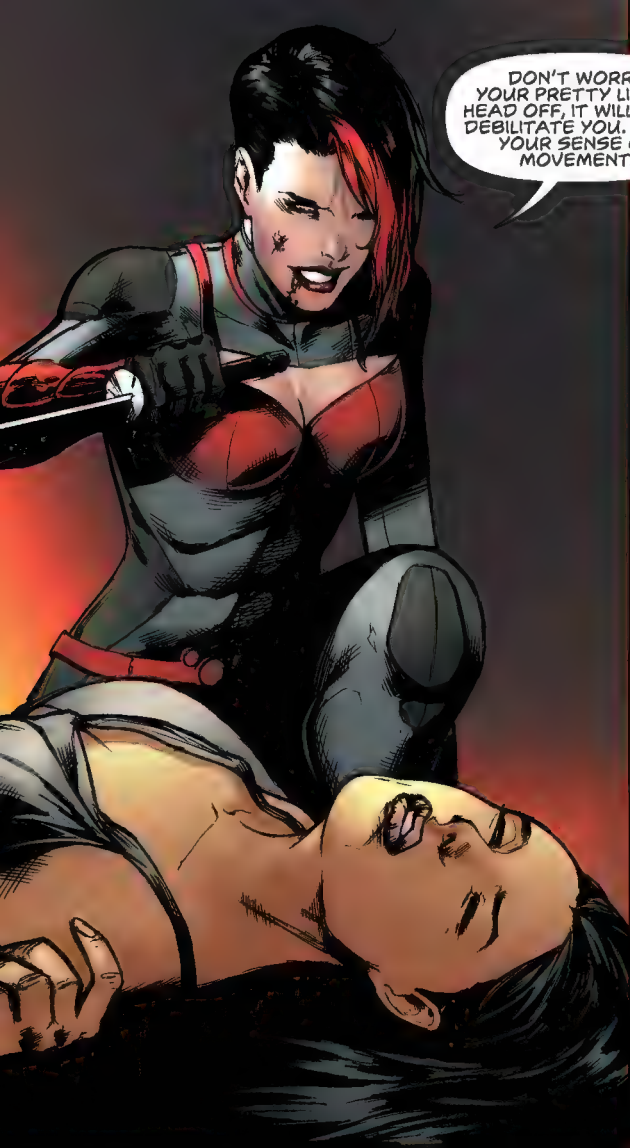
DOES IT MATTER? WHAT DID YOU THINK? ALL OF US ASSASSINS WOULD ALWAYS GET ALONG? BE ONE HAPPY FAMILY? IRIS COULD BE OUR MOTHER? C'MON. YOU KNOW HOW THE GAME IS PLAYED. WE GO TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. IT'S WHAT WE DO. NOT ALL OF US ARE MADE OF MONEY.

BITCH. I NEVER TRUSTED YOU TO BEGIN WITH. YOU THINK YOUR SCHOOLING WILL HELP YOU AGAINST A REAL ASSASSIN...?

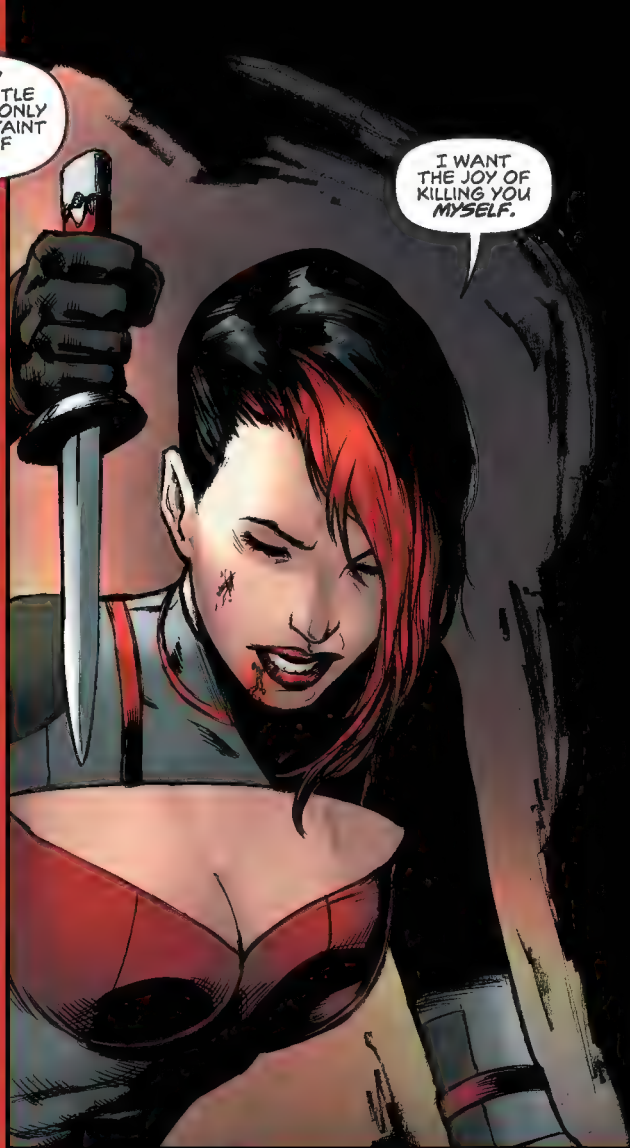


I WAS BORN INTO THIS!

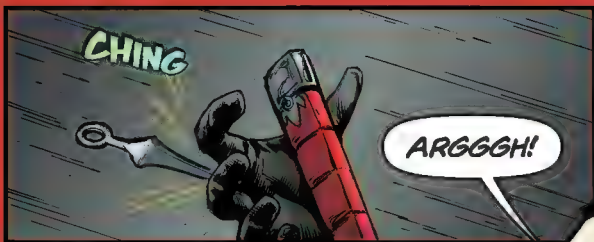




DON'T WORRY
YOUR PRETTY LITTLE
HEAD OFF, IT WILL ONLY
DEBILITATE YOU. TAIN'T
YOUR SENSE OF
MOVEMENT.



I WANT
THE JOY OF
KILLING YOU
MYSELF.



ARGGGH!



WHO...?

DID YOU SEE
THAT THROW? I
STILL GOT IT.

I COULD'VE
HIT THAT SHOT
AS WELL.

LET'S
SEE YOU
TRY.

LADIES, DID
YOU FORGET WHAT
THE OBJECTIVE IS
HERE?





WE'LL LOOK
AT THIS, A
REUNION?



HAVE YOU LOST
YOUR MIND, ROSE?
LOTUS CAME TO OUR
AID-- HELPED YOU
WHEN WE TOOK ON
VILLONE!



I... DON'T
NEED YOUR
HELP.

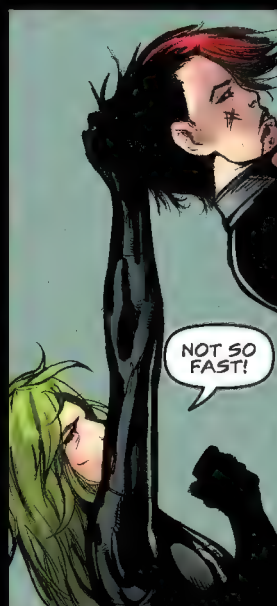
THAT'S NOT
HOW IT LOOKS
TO ME.



YOU THINK I'M
FRIGHTENED BY A
JUNKIE, AN ELDERLY
WOMAN AND DRUG
DEALER'S LACKEY?



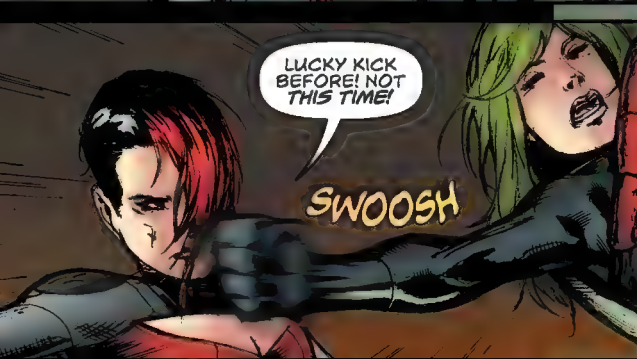
LET'S END
THIS.



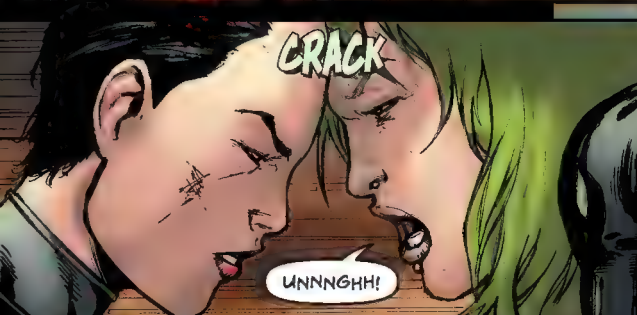




YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PLAY IN THE MUD.

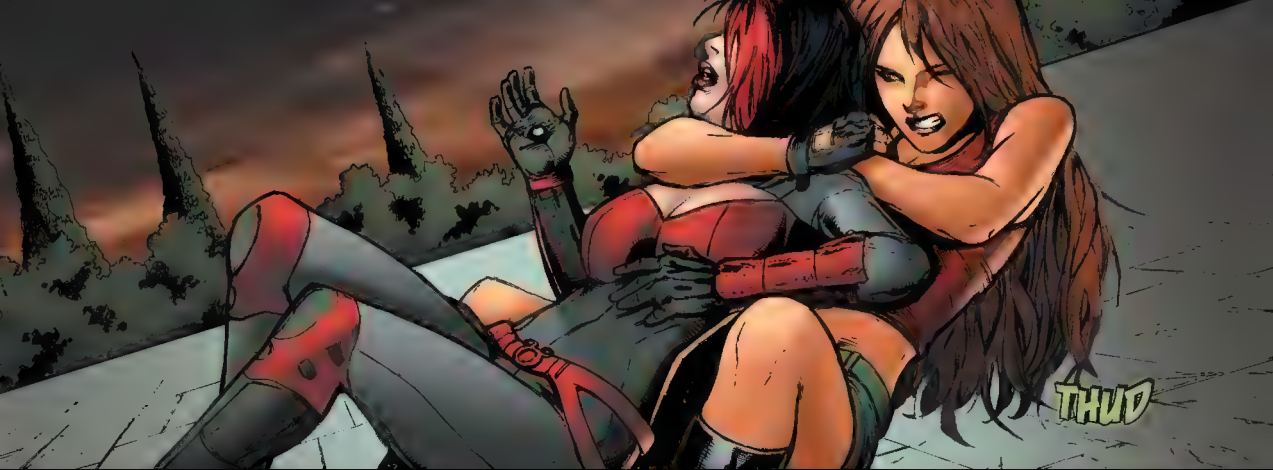


SWOOSH



UNNGHH!





THUD



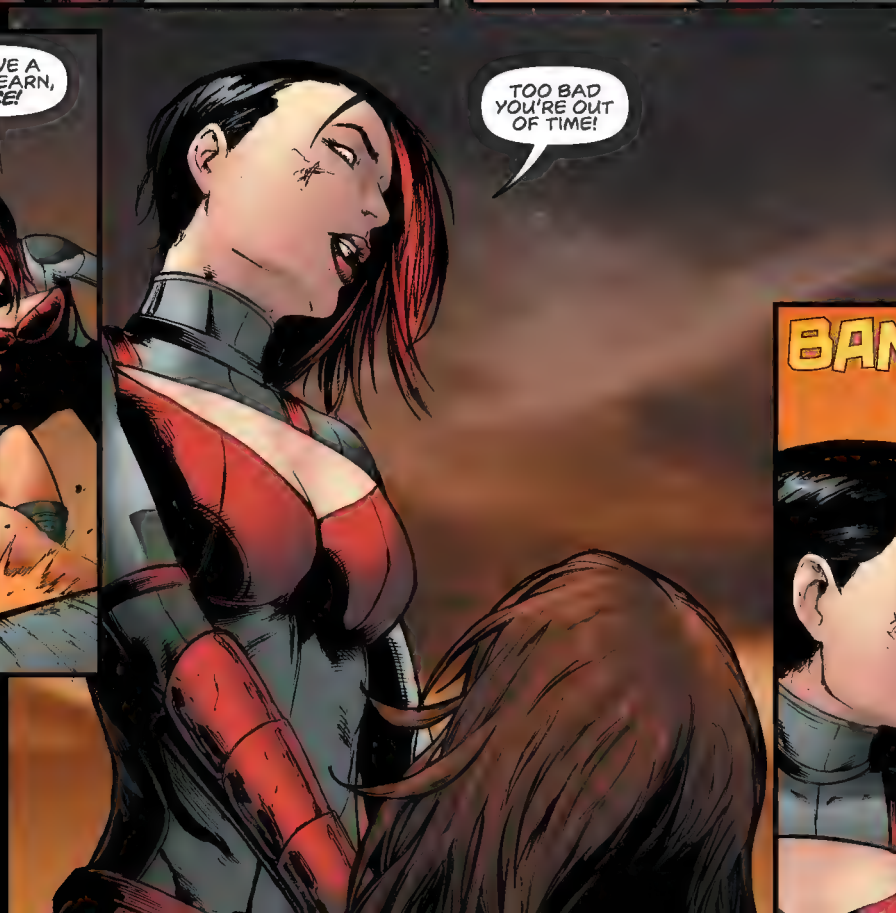
URRGHH!



OWWW!
BITCH!



YOU HAVE A
LOT TO LEARN,
NOVICE!



TOO BAD
YOU'RE OUT
OF TIME!



BANG

ROSE!!!

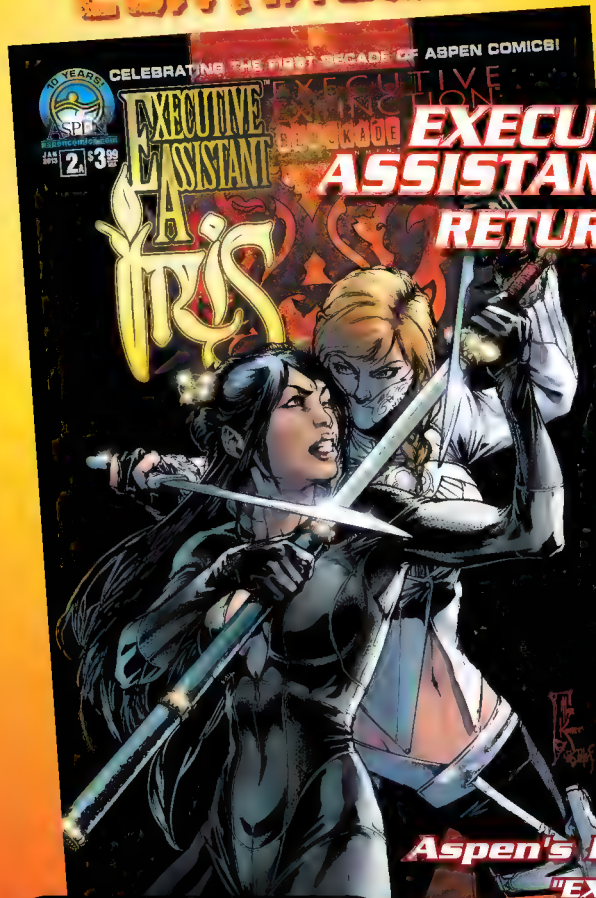


PUT HER
DOWN, OR THE
NEXT SHOT IS
THROUGH *YOUR*
TEMPLE.

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE
EXECUTIVE
EXTINCTION
EVENT
CONTINUES!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT #2



Aspen's Inter-Series Ten Part Event
"EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION"

Continues In The Pages of...

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION CHECKLIST

PART ONE

- ☒ EA: Assassins #6
- ☒ EA: Iris (vol.3) #1

PART TWO

- ☒ EA: Assassins #7
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #2

PART THREE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #8
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #3

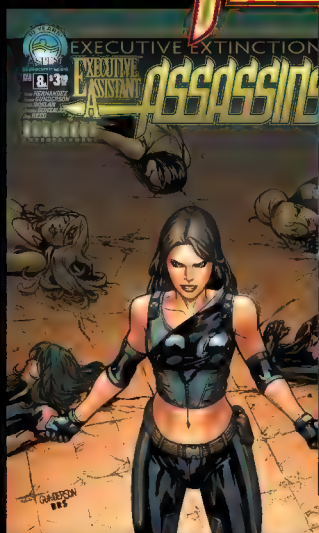
PART FOUR

- ☐ EA: Assassins #9
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #4

PART FIVE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #10
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #5

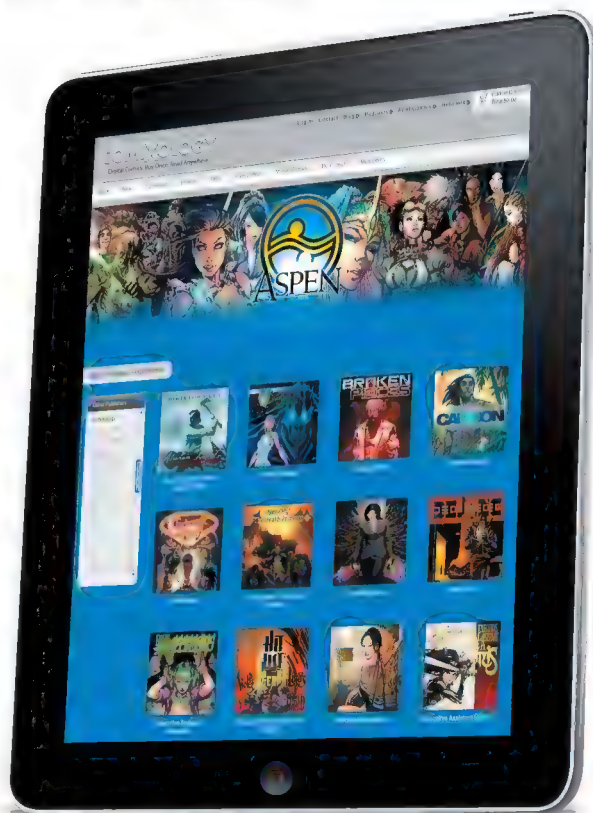
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS #8



WRITTEN BY VINCE HERNANDEZ
JOHAN GUNDERSON
INKS BY MARK ROSLAN
Colors by TEODORO GONZALEZ



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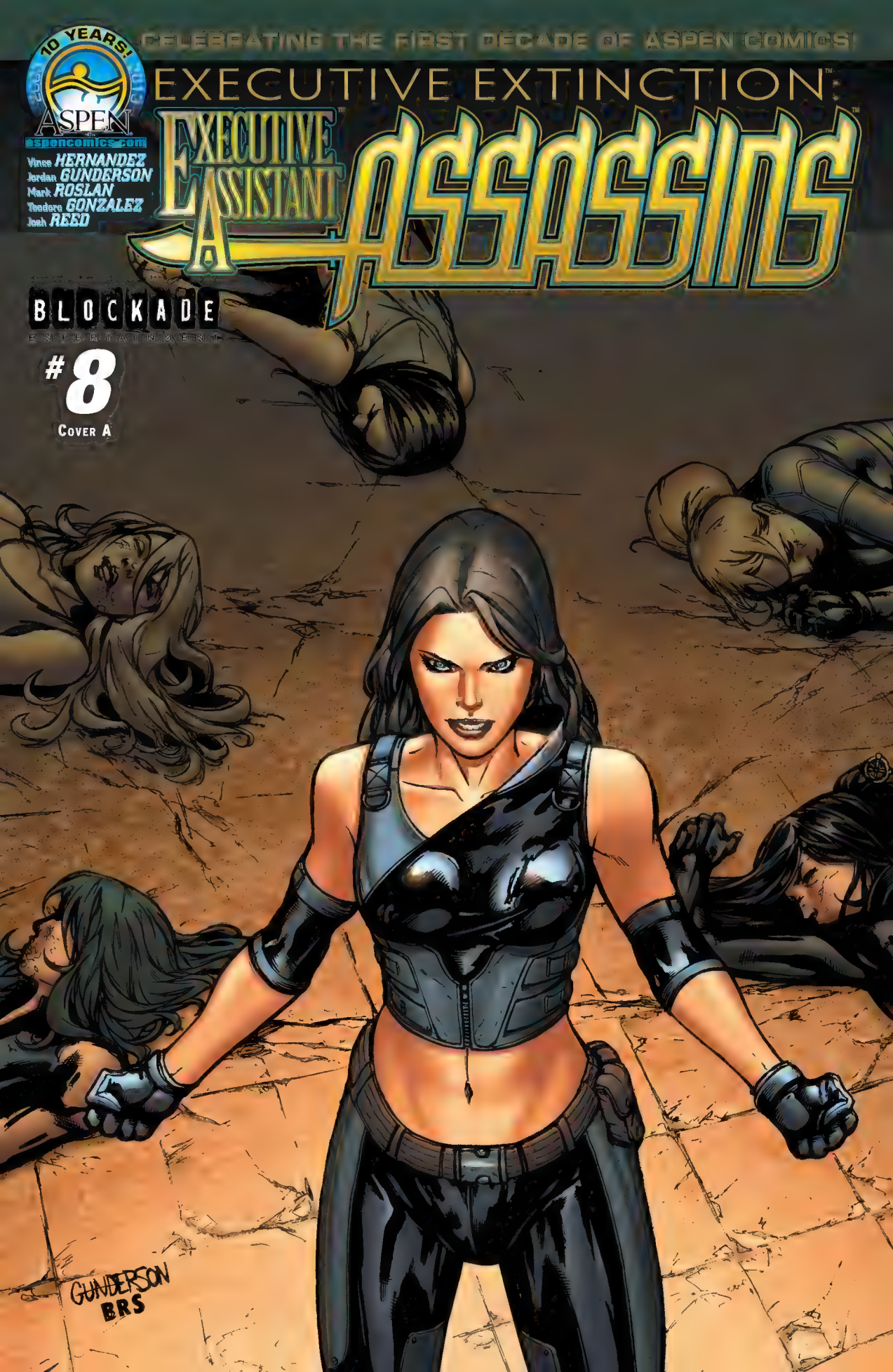
EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION™

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS™

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#8

COVER A



GUNDERSON
BRS



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BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#**8**

COVER B



The story so far

Upon the orders of Mazatsu, Executive Assistant Rose attempted to ambush the skilled assassin Lotus while she slept at her mansion in India. After a brief fight, Lotus escaped. Rose was shocked by the arrival of Lily, Orchid and Anna who came to the aid of Lotus. Yet even with the help of her allies, Lotus was not more than honorable. Lotus in order to get the upper hand, however, her fortune quickly changed when her rival, Shiro, returned to put a stop to the fight... by gunpoint.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION!

PART 3 OF 5

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ROSE, YOU HAVE ONE SECOND TO GET OFF OF HER.

IRIS... OF COURSE. NATURALLY.

YOU HAVE SUCH A KNACK FOR DRAMATIC ARRIVALS.



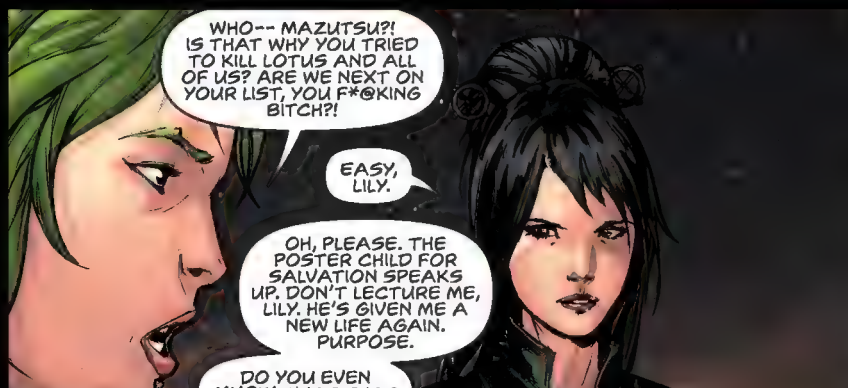
I THOUGHT YOU HAD GIVEN UP THIS FOOLISH VENDETTA AFTER WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.

OR AT THE VERY LEAST GIVEN UP TRYING TO KILL THE **ONLY** ALLIES YOU COULD POSSIBLY HAVE.

A BUNCH OF ASSASSINS WITH BAGGAGE? YOU CALL YOURSELVES MY ALLIES? GET REAL, IRIS. WE PLAY FOR KEEPS IN THIS BUSINESS. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BETTER THAN ANYONE, OR HAVE YOU TOLD ALL OF **THEM** EXACTLY WHO IT IS **YOU** WORK FOR? THERE'S NO ROOM FOR FRIENDSHIP ANYMORE. NOT WITH OUR KIND.



I WORK FOR THE HIGHEST BIDDER, PLAIN AND SIMPLE.



WHO-- MAZUTSU?! IS THAT WHY YOU TRIED TO KILL LOTUS AND ALL OF US? ARE WE NEXT ON YOUR LIST, YOU F*CKING BITCH?!

EASY, LILY.

OH, PLEASE. THE POSTER CHILD FOR SALVATION SPEAKS UP. DON'T LECTURE ME, LILY. HE'S GIVEN ME A NEW LIFE AGAIN. PURPOSE.

DO YOU EVEN **KNOW** WHAT THAT WORD MEANS?



IF IT MEANS TAKING OUT SOME OF THE GARBAGE FROM MY PAST LIFE-- THEN SO BE IT!

AND I THOUGHT I WAS A BITCH.

DIFFERENT DEGREES.



WELL,
YOU'RE ONE PIECE
OF TRASH THAT'S NOT
LEAVING ON YOUR
OWN ACCORD.

LET'S
TAKE HER
INSIDE.



SO, I'M
A HOSTAGE
NOW?

ROSE
"HOSTAGE" IS
SUCH A... POLITICALLY
INCORRECT TERM. MY
CURRENT EMPLOYER
WOULD CALL YOU
OUR GUEST.

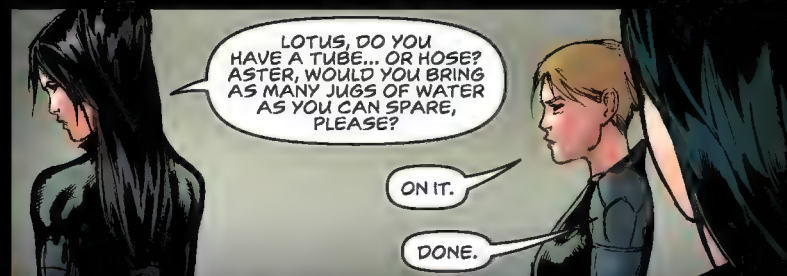
AS A MATTER OF
FACT, PLEASE ALLOW
ME TO SHOW YOU SOME
OF THE VARIOUS FORMS OF
HOSPITALITY I'VE RECENTLY
LEARNED. IT'S AMAZING
WHAT TRICKS THEY'VE
COME UP WITH.



YOU'VE HEARD OF
WATERBOARDING BEFORE
I PRESUME?

TORTURE, IRIS?
NOT REALLY YOUR
STYLE. BUT IF THAT'S
YOUR GAME YOU'LL
FIND I CAN PLAY
LONGER THAN
MOST.

YOU
DIDN'T LET ME
FINISH.



LOTUS, DO YOU
HAVE A TUBE... OR HOSE?
ASTER, WOULD YOU BRING
AS MANY JUGS OF WATER
AS YOU CAN SPARE,
PLEASE?

ON IT.

DONE.




WHAT
I HAVE IN
MIND IS MUCH
WORSE.

IRIS...



YOU'RE RIGHT.
WATERBOARDING IS
NO FUN FOR ANYONE.
IT ALSO MAKES A
HUGE MESS...



...NO... I PREFER TO KEEP
THE MESS MORE... CONTAINED.
DID YOU KNOW THERE'S SUCH A
THING AS WATER INTOXICATION?
FORCED INGESTION OVER TIME
EVENTUALLY LEADS TO INTENSE
BRAIN SWELLING, SEIZURES
AND... EVENTUALLY...
DEATH.

IRIS--
COME
ON.



TELL US
WHERE AND HOW
WE CAN GET TO
MAZUTSU.



YOU DON'T
WANT TO DO
THIS.

OF COURSE
I DON'T. BUT, I WILL.
HE'S THAT IMPORTANT
TO US. THE MAN NEEDS
TO GO AWAY. PLUS, I
CAN'T STAND TO SEE
MY FRIENDS HURT,
EITHER.

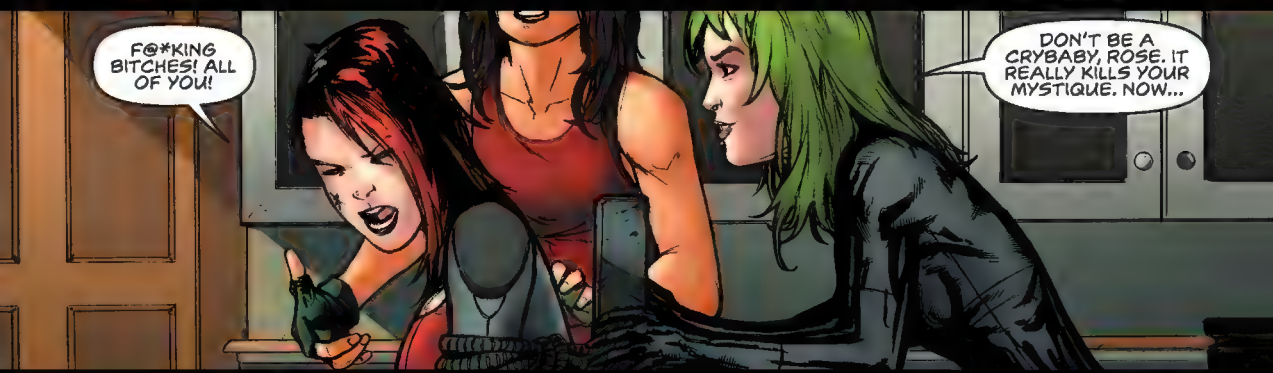
I'VE NEVER
HAD A FRIEND
BEFORE.

IT'S
OVERRATED.

TOTALLY.



DON'T
MAKE ME DO
THIS, ROSE.









WE SHOULD'VE BROUGHT HEAT.

WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT WE'RE UP AGAINST.

STAY READY.



DIVE!



WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?



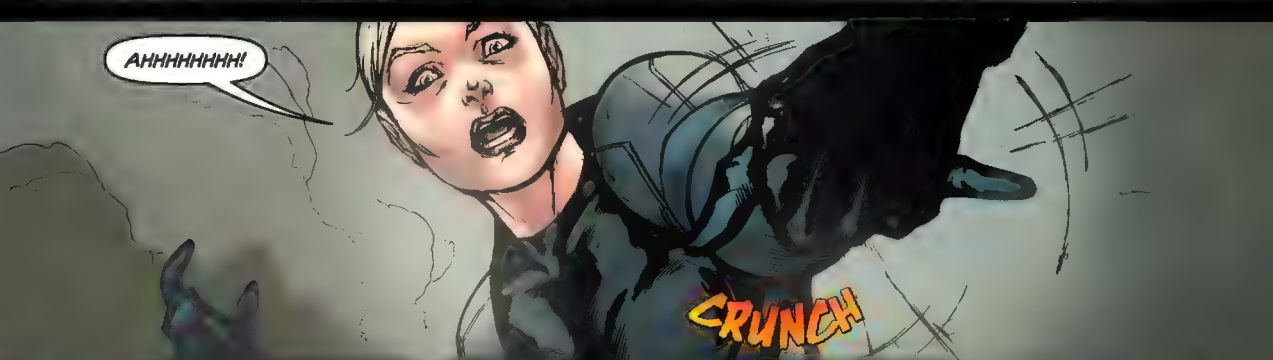
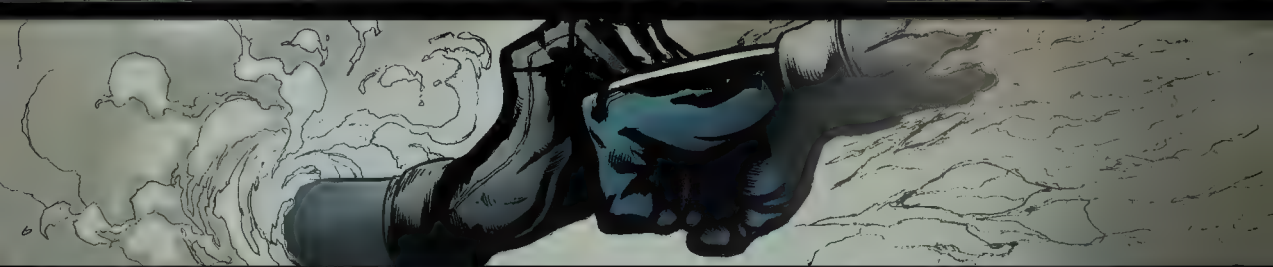
AGGH!

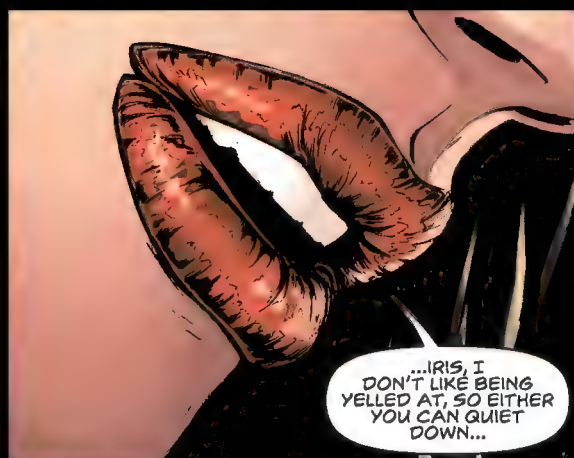
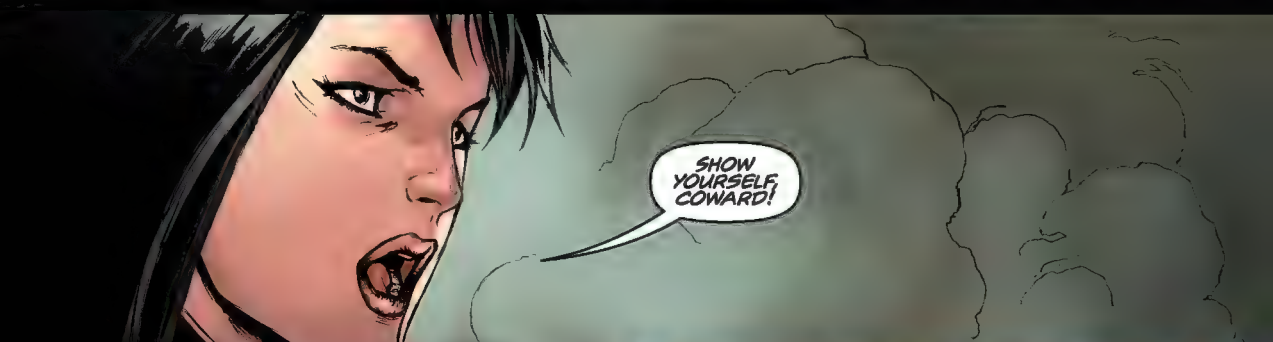
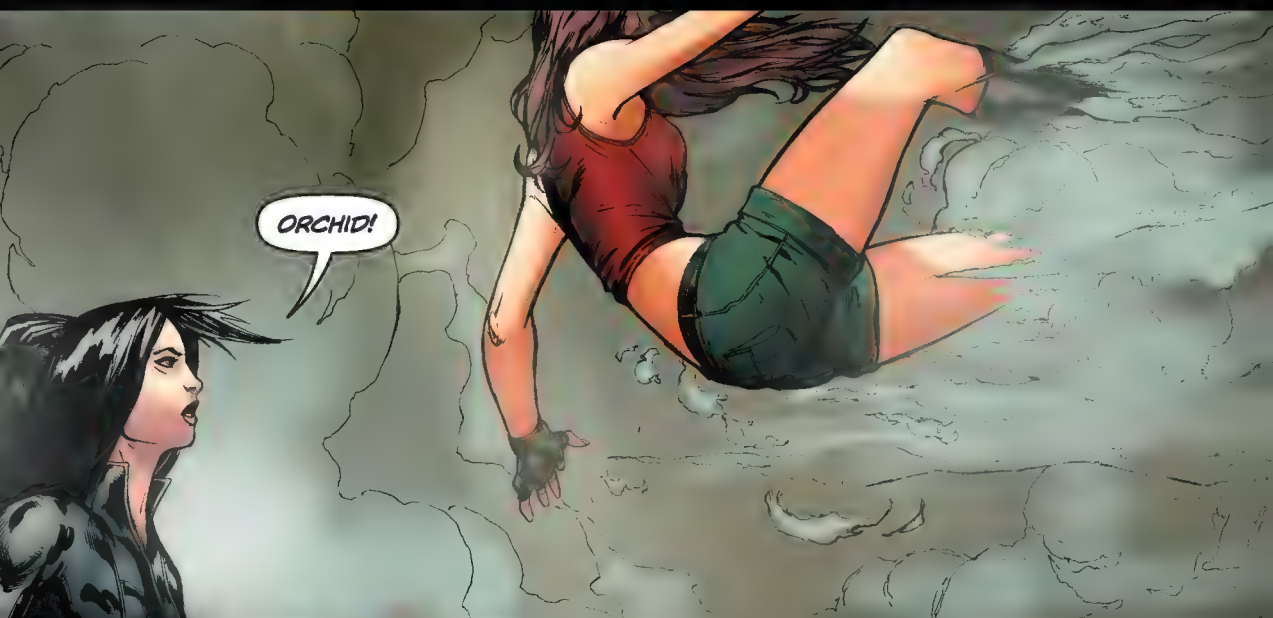


CRACK



SMASH







...OR I'LL
SHUT YOU UP
MYSELF.



WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I AM LIKE YOU, IRIS...



...AN EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT.

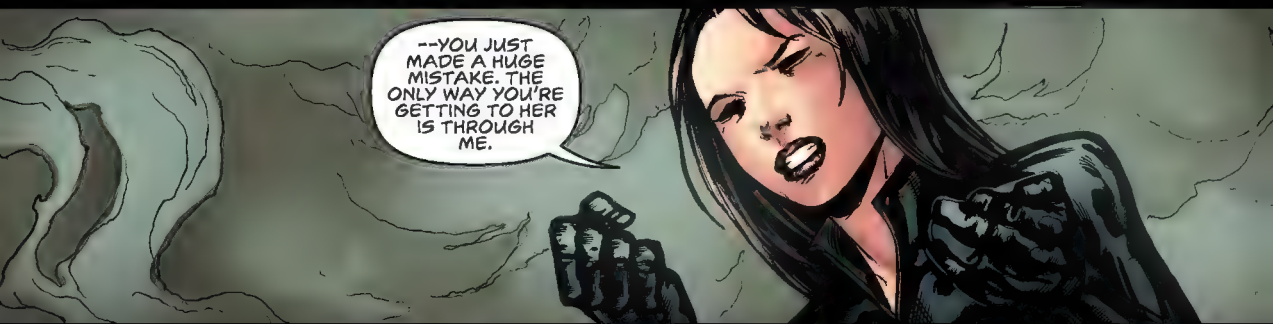


YOU THINK THAT SURPRISES ME? CLEARLY YOU'VE BEEN TRAINED WELL. BUT, WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?!



IT'S HER I WANT. THE REST OF YOU I COULD CARE LESS ABOUT. YOU ALL ARE JUST IN MY WAY.

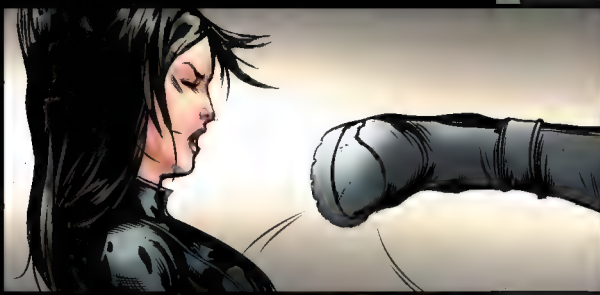
WHOEVER YOU ARE--



--YOU JUST MADE A HUGE MISTAKE. THE ONLY WAY YOU'RE GETTING TO HER IS THROUGH ME.



THE MISTAKE IS ALL YOURS.



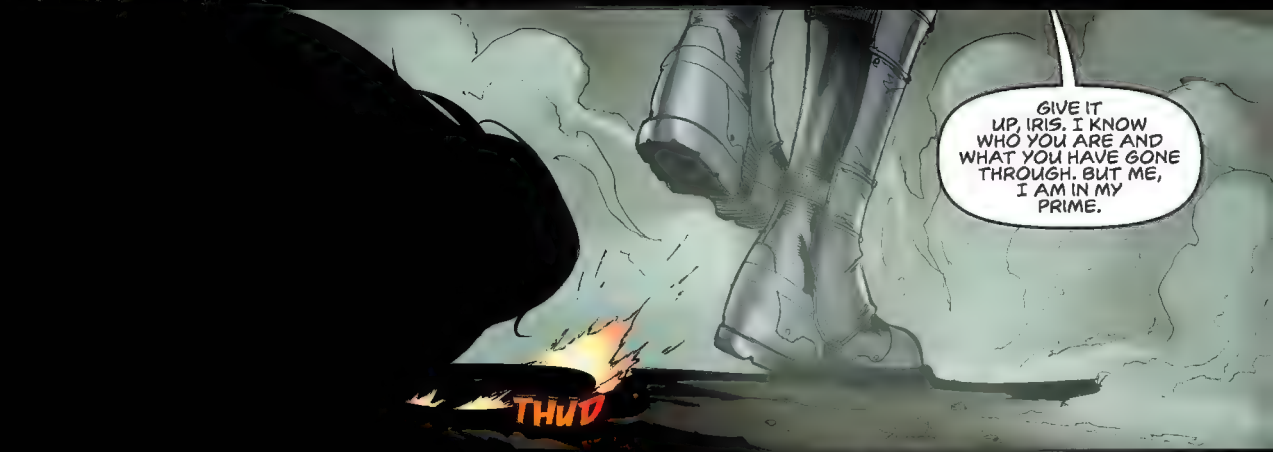
TOO SLOW!

AHHH!

THUNK

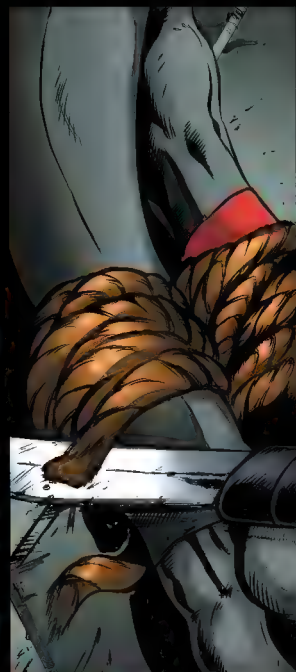


CRACK



GIVE IT UP, IRIS. I KNOW WHO YOU ARE AND WHAT YOU HAVE GONE THROUGH. BUT ME, I AM IN MY PRIME.

THUD



ON THE CONTRARY, I KNOW MORE ABOUT ALL OF YOU THEN YOU WILL EVER KNOW.



TOKYO, JAPAN.

SIR, WE'VE
TRIED TO REACH
HER ON THE SECURE
LINE AND THE AGREED-
UPON MESSAGE
BOARD--

--ROSE
HAS GONE OFF
THE GRID.

KEEP
TRYING. THESE
MISSIONS ARE
NOT AN EXACT
SCIENCE.

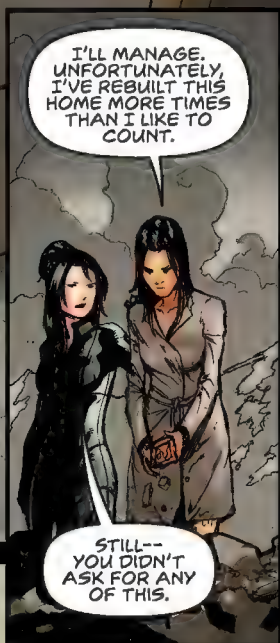
BUT
SIR--

--DID I ASK
FOR FEEDBACK?!
YOU KEEP TRYING UNTIL
YOU GET ME A TANGIBLE
RESULT! WHETHER IT'S HER
VOICE ON THE PHONE OR
HER DEAD BODY IN THE
MORGUE. I DON'T
CARE...

...I
JUST WANT
RESULTS.



HEY,
ARE YOU
OKAY?



I'LL MANAGE.
UNFORTUNATELY,
I'VE REBUILT THIS
HOME MORE TIMES
THAN I LIKE TO
COUNT.

STILL--
YOU DIDN'T
ASK FOR ANY
OF THIS.



DID
ANY OF
US?

IT'S OKAY,
IRIS. THIS-- IS
NOTHING. I HAVE
PLENTY OF WEALTH
TO REBUILD. I'M JUST
GLAD THE TIGER
WASN'T HURT
BADLY.

THE **REAL**
QUESTION IS, IF THAT
STRANGER WANTED
ROSE, AND DIDN'T KILL
US ALL-- THEN **WHO**
EXACTLY DOES SHE
WORK FOR?



IS IT
BROKEN?

I'M
AFRAID
SO.

OUCH.

IT PAINS,
BUT NOT
AS MUCH AS
THAT BITCH
IS GOING
TO FEEL.



SO, WHAT'S
THE PLAN LADIES? I
TRUST YOU'LL FOLLOW
US IN FINDING ROSE
AND HER FRIEND?



I...
I CAN'T,
LILY.

WHAT?

IN CASE
YOU MISSED
IT, WE JUST GOT
OUR ASSES
KICKED.

I UNDERSTAND
THAT, LILY. BUT,
I--

--YOU HAVE
TO GO BACK TO
YOUR AGENCY, IS THAT
IT? JEEZ, IRIS, WHAT'S
HAPPENED TO YOU?
THIS USED TO BE A
NO-BRAINER.

IT'S DIFFERENT
NOW. THIS IS WHAT
HAPPENS WHEN WE GO
OFF AND DO OUR OWN
THING-- **DON'T** YOU
GET IT? I CAN'T KEEP
DOING THIS, I'M...
SORRY.

WHAT
ABOUT YOU,
LOTUS? WHAT
WILL YOU
DO?



THIS IS MY HOME. I CAN'T LEAVE.

BESIDES, I'M A BIG GIRL. IF MAZUTSU WANTS TO TRY TO TAKE ME OUT AGAIN-- LET HIM TRY HIS BEST.



WELL, THAT'S JUST AWESOME-- WE CAME ALL THIS WAY TO GET OUR COLLECTIVE ASSES HANDED TO US WITH NOTHING TO SHOW FOR IT.

LET'S GO, GIRLS.

I'M REALLY SORRY, LILY. TRULY.

IT'S FINE.

I GUESS OUR PATHS HAVE NEVER REALLY RUN PARALLEL, AM I RIGHT?

YEAH.



HEY--



--IF YOU DO FIND ROSE, MAKE SURE TO MAKE HER PAY-- FOR ME.



SURE THING, IRIS. TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF, OKAY?



SO, ARE YOU GONNA TELL ME JUST WHO THE HELL YOU ARE AND WHY YOU SAVED MY ASS BACK THERE?

DO NOT WORRY, I AM NOT GOING TO KILL YOU IF THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE THINKING.

CLEARLY.



BUT, I'M STILL YOUR PRISONER?

IT IS PRECAUTIONARY.

YOU ARE AN ASSASSIN, AFTER ALL.

I WOULDN'T WORRY. BESIDES THE FACT YOU JUST SAVED MY LIFE, I USUALLY NEED TO KNOW WHO IT IS THAT I'M GOING AFTER.

YOU? I HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU ARE.

MY NAME IS IVY.

I USED TO DO WHAT YOU DO, BUT NOW... NOW I WORK FREELANCE.

AND WHAT PART OF YOUR WORK INVOLVES ME, EXACTLY?





THE PART INVOLVING YOUR EMPLOYER.

GREAT. THIS AGAIN.

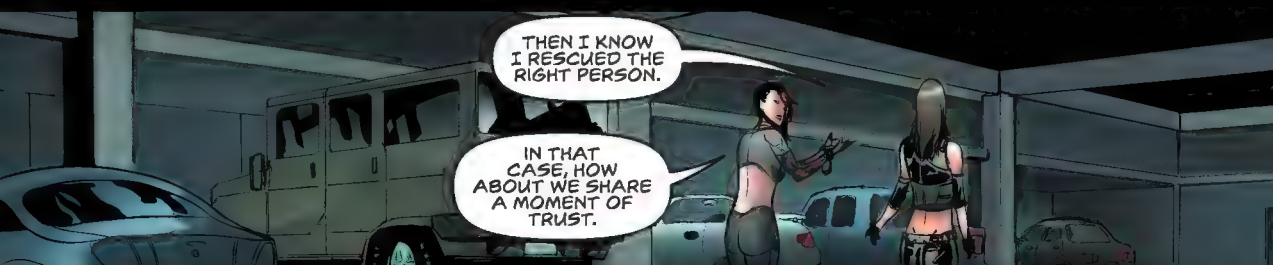
NO.

IT IS NOT LIKE THAT. I KNOW MAZUTSU... PERSONALLY.

HE IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK. IF YOU CONTINUE WORKING FOR HIM, HE WILL EVENTUALLY TURN ON YOU. IT'S WHAT HE DOES.

I WORK ALONE. EVEN WHEN I'M WORKING FOR SOME BIG SHOT LIKE HIM-- I ALWAYS HAVE MY OWN INTERESTS IN MIND.

IT'S WHO I AM.



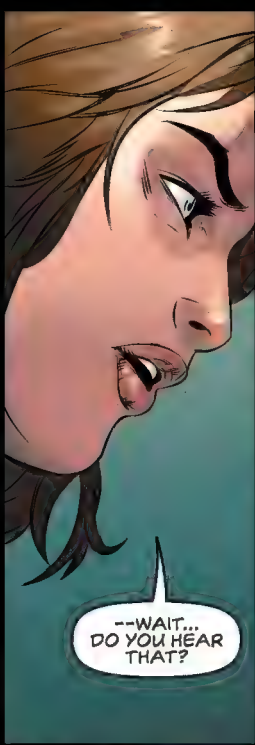
THEN I KNOW I RESCUED THE RIGHT PERSON.

IN THAT CASE, HOW ABOUT WE SHARE A MOMENT OF TRUST.



YOU LIVE HERE?

I WOULD NOT SAY THAT. I USE IT TO SLEEP EVERY NOW AND THEN. IT'S MORE OF A--



--WAIT... DO YOU HEAR THAT?



YEAH, IT'S COMING FROM OUTSIDE.

SHIT...



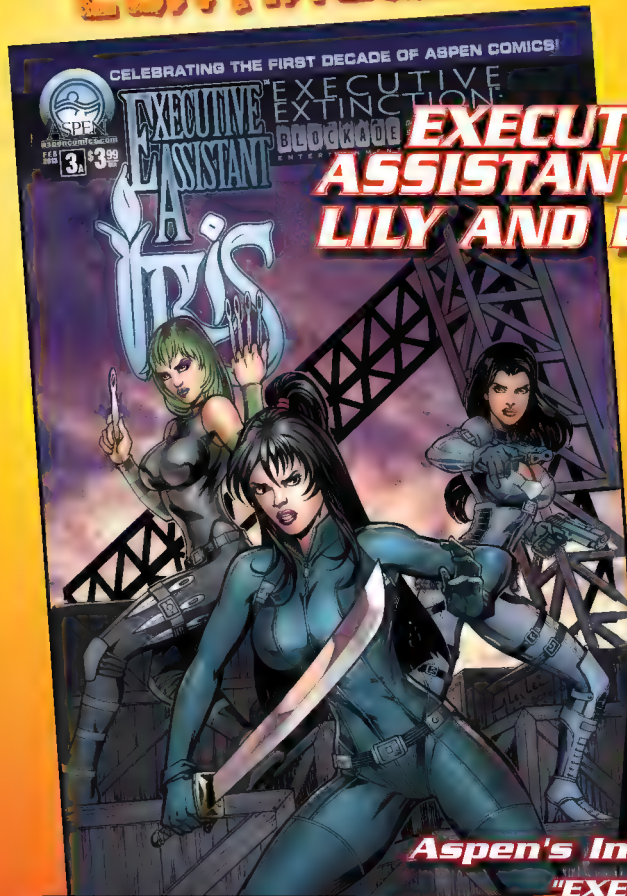
...TAKE
COVER!!!

TO BE CONTINUED...

THE EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION EVENT CONTINUES!

Story: DAVID WOHL
 Pencils: ALEX LEI
 Colors: SIYA OUM

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT #3



Aspen's Inter-Series Ten Part Event
 "EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION"

Continues Next Month!

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION CHECKLIST

PART ONE

- ☒ EA: Assassins #6
- ☒ EA: Iris (vol.3) #1

PART TWO

- ☒ EA: Assassins #7
- ☒ EA: Iris (vol.3) #2

PART THREE

- ☒ EA: Assassins #8
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #3

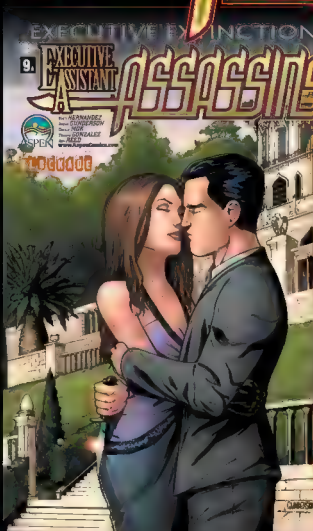
PART FOUR

- ☐ EA: Assassins #9
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #4

PART FIVE

- ☐ EA: Assassins #10
- ☐ EA: Iris (vol.3) #5

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS #9



Colors by VINCE HERNANDEZ
 JORDAN GUNDERSON
 CHARLIE MOK
 TEODORO GONZALEZ



CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

HERNANDEZ
JORDAN
GUNDERSON
CHARLIE
MOK
TOWERS
GONZALEZ
KEED

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#9

COVER A



GUNDERSON ☆

CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!



Wrote **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Charlie **MOX**
Enders **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION™

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT *ASSASSINS*

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#9

COVER B



The story so far

The Executive Assistants converged at Lotus's mansion in order to find ways to reach Mazutsu, but instead encountered their former ally. But who now works for him? Doubt is a particularly choice for the Executive Assistants, the members of the master. The past is not a secret, but for all new Executive Assistants, it's a mystery. And now even more questions are being answered.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION!

PART 4 OF 5

WRITTEN BY

VINCE HERNANDEZ

ILLUSTRATED BY

JORDAN GUNDERSON

ILLUSTRATED BY

CHARLIE MOK

ILLUSTRATED BY

TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING BY

JOSH REED



A: DIRECT EDITION
JORDAN GUNDERSON
JOHN STARR



B: DIRECT EDITION
POP MHAN



C: WONDERCON 2013 EXCLUSIVE
LIMITED EDITION 06/200
JOSEPH CHIKAO
DAVID CLIRCH

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Fox, and Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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PRECISION
ATTACK. ONLY AIMED
AT THIS APARTMENT.
MAZUTSU WILL PAY
FOR THIS!



HEY--
I DON'T KNOW
WHO YOU THINK
YOU ARE,
BUT--

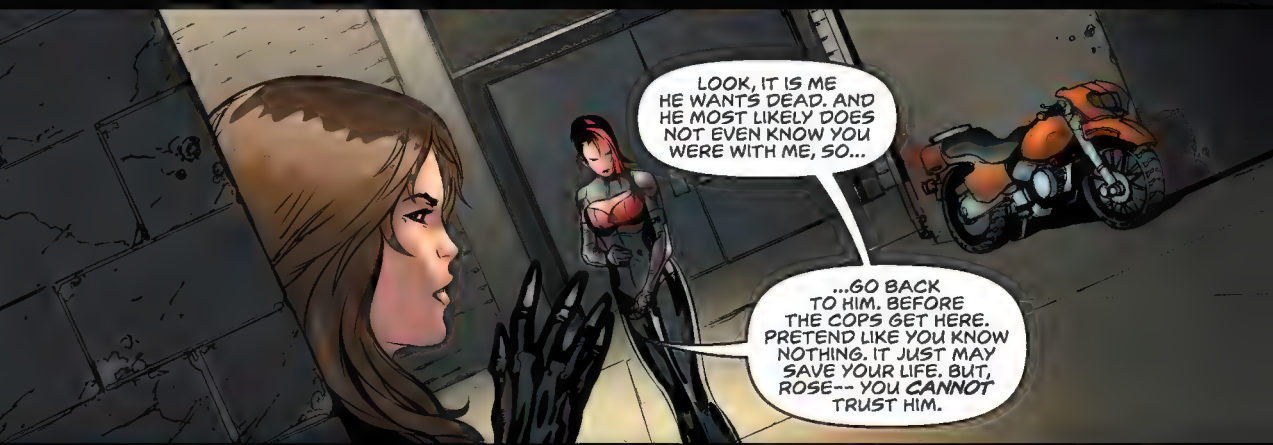
--I AM THE PERSON
WHO JUST SAVED YOUR
F@*KING LIFE-- TWICE.
AND I AM TELLING YOU THAT
MAZUTSU IS RESPONSIBLE
FOR THAT ATTACK
BACK THERE.



HOW DO
YOU... UNGH...
KNOW IT'S
HIM?

APACHE STEALTH
F@*KING HELICOPTERS,
ROSE. WHO ELSE DO YOU
KNOW HAS ACCESS TO
THAT TYPE OF
WEAPONRY?

OPEN YOUR
EYES. YOU ARE
WORKING FOR A
SOCIOPATH!



LOOK, IT IS ME
HE WANTS DEAD. AND
HE MOST LIKELY DOES
NOT EVEN KNOW YOU
WERE WITH ME, SO...

...GO BACK
TO HIM. BEFORE
THE COPS GET HERE.
PRETEND LIKE YOU KNOW
NOTHING. IT JUST MAY
SAVE YOUR LIFE. BUT,
ROSE-- YOU CANNOT
TRUST HIM.



DO NOT FORGET
WHO SAVED YOUR LIFE THIS DAY--
AND WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF IF YOU
CHOOSE TO STOP ISOLATING YOURSELF.
HAVING POWERFUL ALLIES IS THE ONLY WAY
TO SURVIVE IN THESE TIMES. YOUR FRIEND
IRIS UNDERSTANDS THIS-- NOW YOU
MUST DO THE SAME. COME FIND ME
WHEN YOU ARE READY.

TOKYO, JAPAN.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

MY FORMER EMPLOYER SENT ME HERE ONCE TO BREAK UP AN ILLEGAL AVIATION RING MOONLIGHTING AS A DRUG EMPIRE. THE YAKUZA WERE SELLING STOLEN PASSENGER PLANE PARTS TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER ON THE SIDE. GOOD MONEY IN IT. YOU TWO SHOULD LOOK INTO IT IF YOU EVER NEED QUICK CASH.

ONE CRIME AT A TIME, ORCHID.



THIS SHOULD DO JUST FINE.

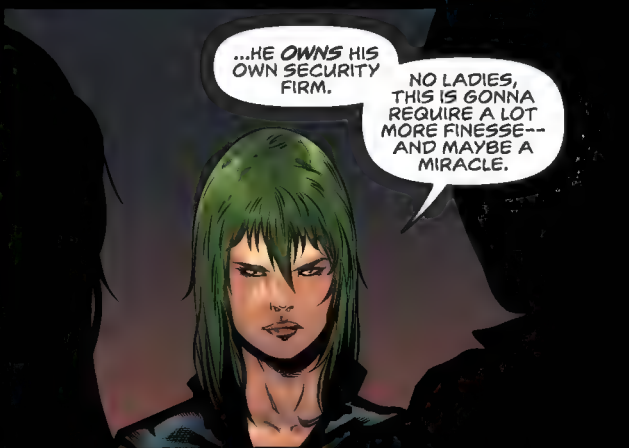
I MISS MY TOWNHOUSE IN LONDON, ALREADY.

SERIOUSLY, LILY, WHAT ARE OUR ODDS OF GETTING TO MAZUTSU? EVEN IF WE SET UP IN THE SAME CITY, HOW WILL WE EVER GET CLOSE TO HIM? I'M ASSUMING HE'S PAID FOR SEVERAL LAYERS OF PRIVATIZED SECURITY?

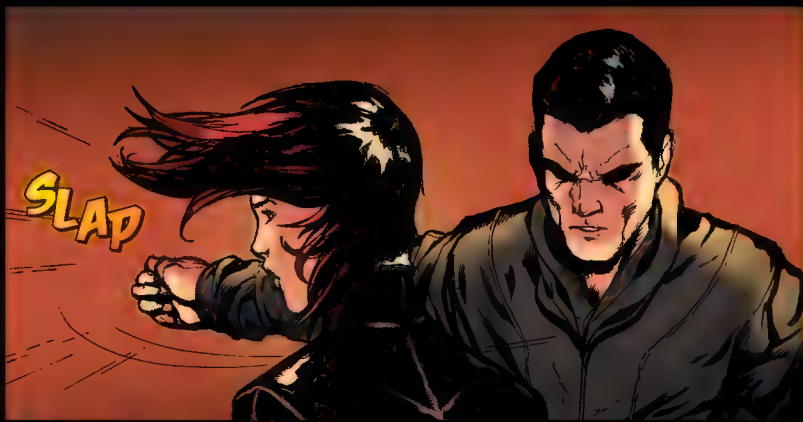
NO...

...HE OWNS HIS OWN SECURITY FIRM.

NO LADIES, THIS IS GONNA REQUIRE A LOT MORE FINESSE-- AND MAYBE A MIRACLE.



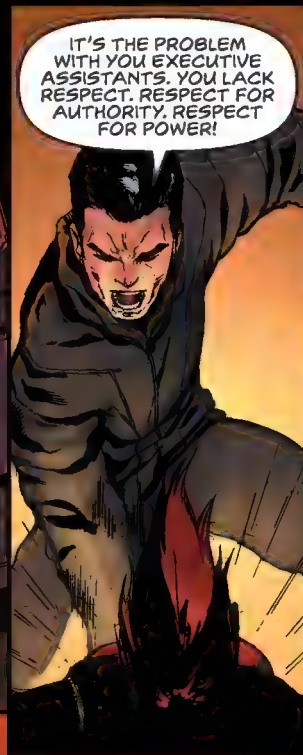




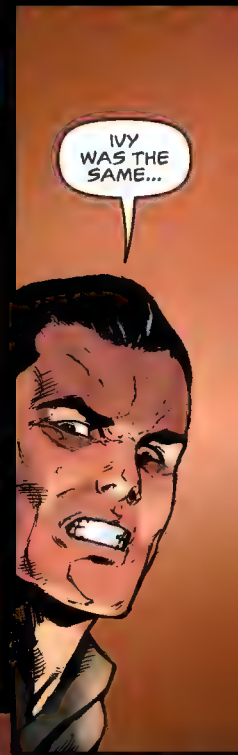
DO NOT FORGET IT IS ONLY YOU AND I IN HERE--

YOU WILL CEASE WITH THE MEANINGLESS THREATS!

I AM NOT SOME BACK ALLEY THUG YOU CAN TAKE OUT WITH EASE-- I AM FAR WORSE!



IT'S THE PROBLEM WITH YOU EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS. YOU LACK RESPECT. RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY. RESPECT FOR POWER!



IVY WAS THE SAME...



WHO... IS SHE...?

ISRAEL. TEN
YEARS EARLIER.

"IT IS NOT WHO
SHE IS, BUT WHAT
SHE WAS.

"I WAS YOUNGER
THEN, MORE FOOLISH
TO THE REALITIES OF
THE WORLD...



"...YET NO LESS
POWERFUL.



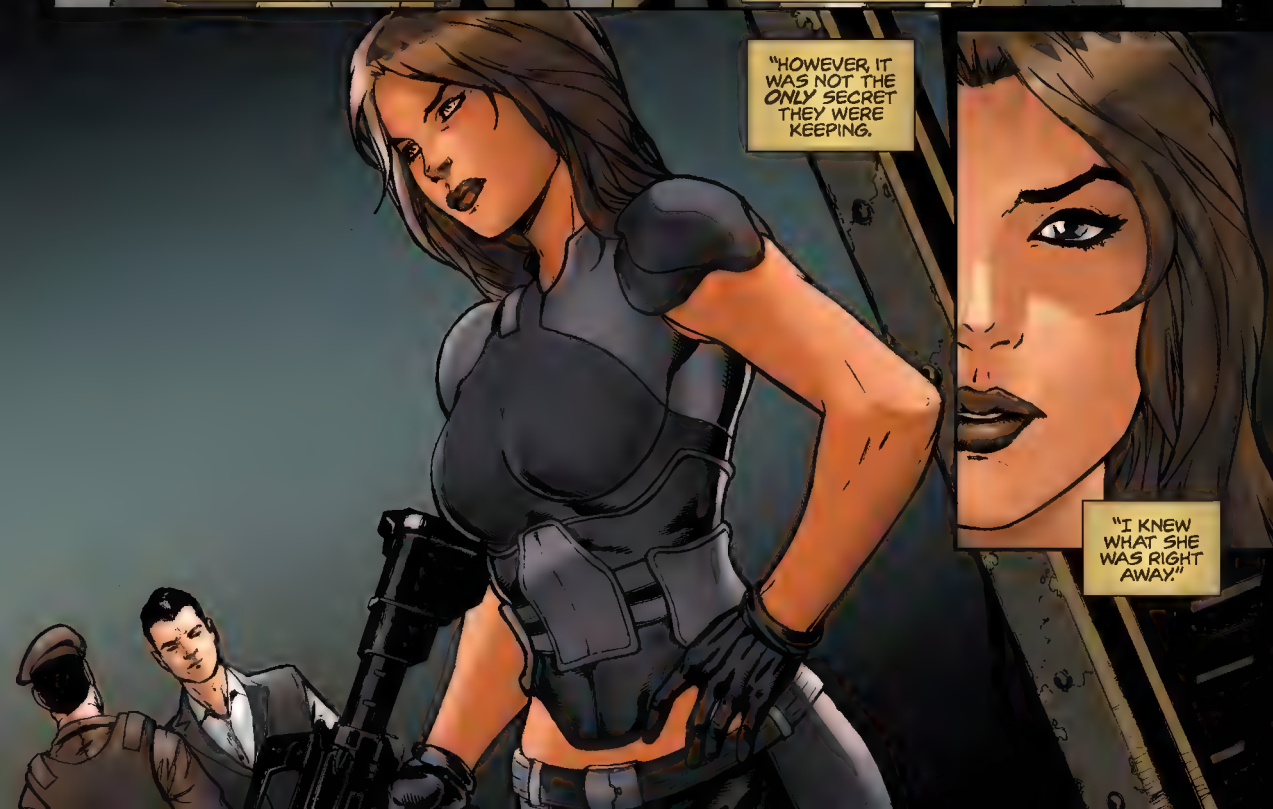
"THE ISRAELI
DEFENSE FORCE
WAS ONE OF MY BEST
CUSTOMERS, ALTHOUGH
OUR TRANSACTIONS
WERE ALWAYS
COVERT.

"FOR GOVERNMENTS, IT IS
MORE PRUDENT TO KEEP
THE PURCHASES OF YOUR
ARSENAL SECRET...

"...LEST THEIR
CITIZENS FIND OUT
THE TRUE ORIGIN OF
THEIR FREEDOM AND
PROTECTION.



"HOWEVER, IT
WAS NOT THE
ONLY SECRET
THEY WERE
KEEPING.



"I KNEW
WHAT SHE
WAS RIGHT
AWAY."

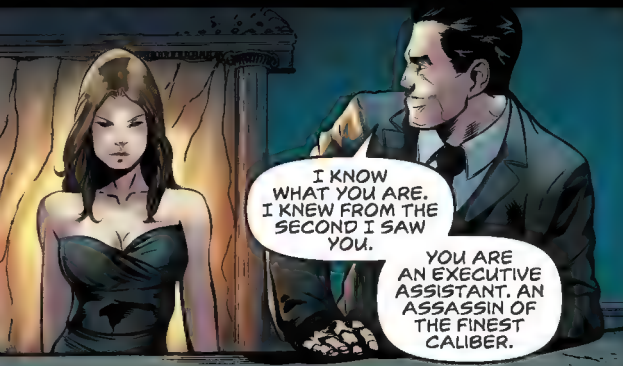
"AND WITH MY CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES, IT WAS NOT HARD TO PERSUADE THE ISRAELI LIEUTENANT TO OUTSOURCE HIS INVESTMENT."

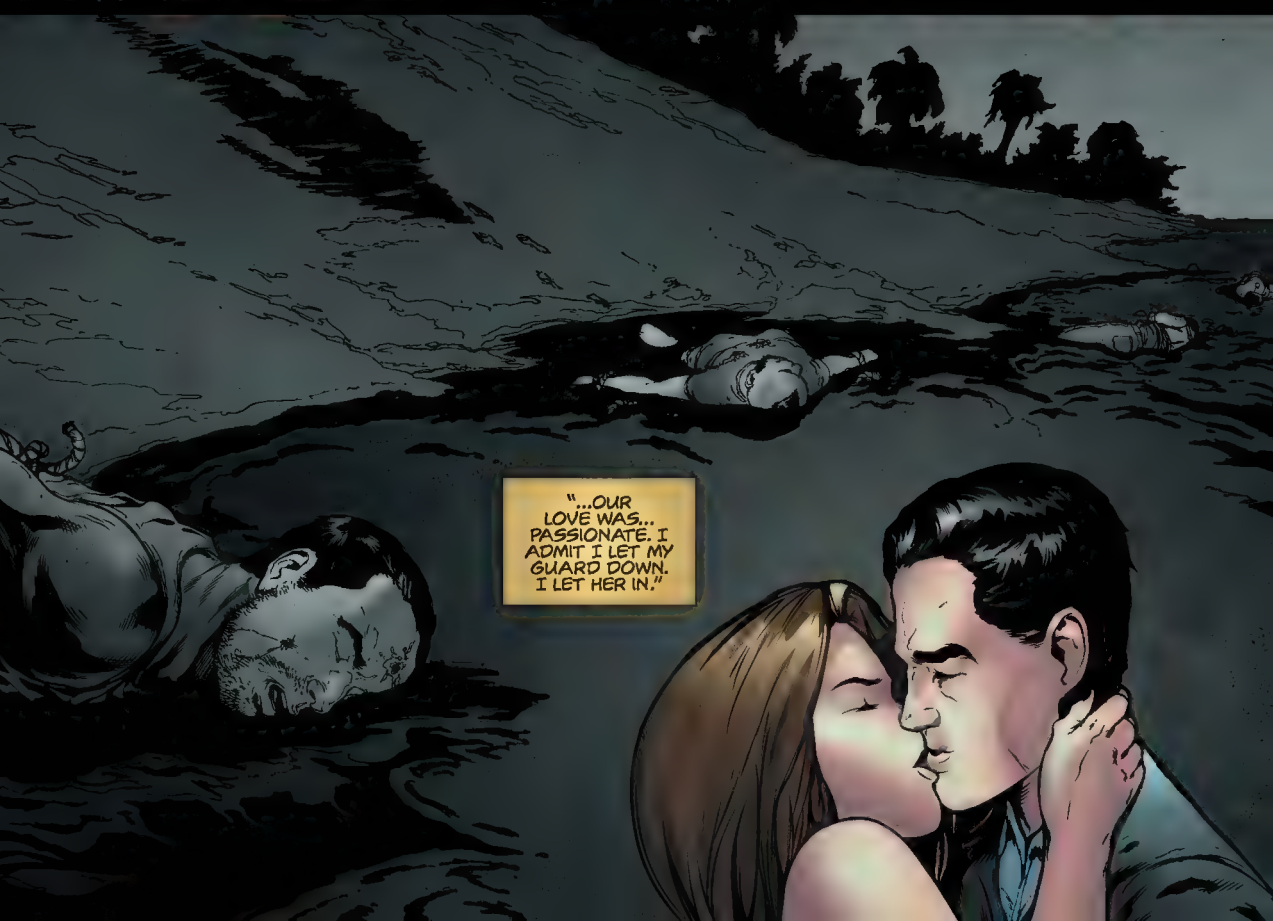
YOU REQUESTED TO SEE ME?

YES, THANK YOU FOR JOINING ME. THEY TELL ME YOUR NAME IS IVY.

AND WHO WOULD "THEY" BE?

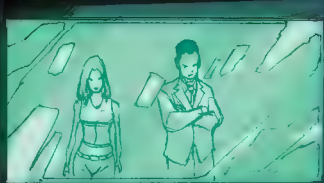
ALL OF THEM. YOUR PEOPLE. THEY ARE EASILY SWAYED BY THE PERSUASION OF MONEY.





"I SHOWED
HER THE INNER
DETAILS OF MY
LIFE'S WORK."


"AND WHAT OUR
FUTURE HELD."



"HOWEVER, CERTAIN ASPECTS
OF MY LIFE I SHOULD HAVE
KEPT SHROUDED. THINGS I
SHOULD HAVE KNOWN SHE
WOULD NOT BE READY FOR."

"WE WERE ON THE CUSP
ON TELEPATHIC CONTROL--
OF SOMETHING SPECIAL.
WORLD-CHANGING."

"BUT, SHE
WAS NOT
READY."



"AND, LIKE EVERYONE,
TRUE NEEDS ALWAYS RISE
TO THE SURFACE. WEALTH AND
POWER WAS MY DRAW FOR HER,
I ALWAYS KNEW THIS. YET THERE
WERE OTHERS WHO FOUND
THIS WEAKNESS IN HER,
AS WELL..."

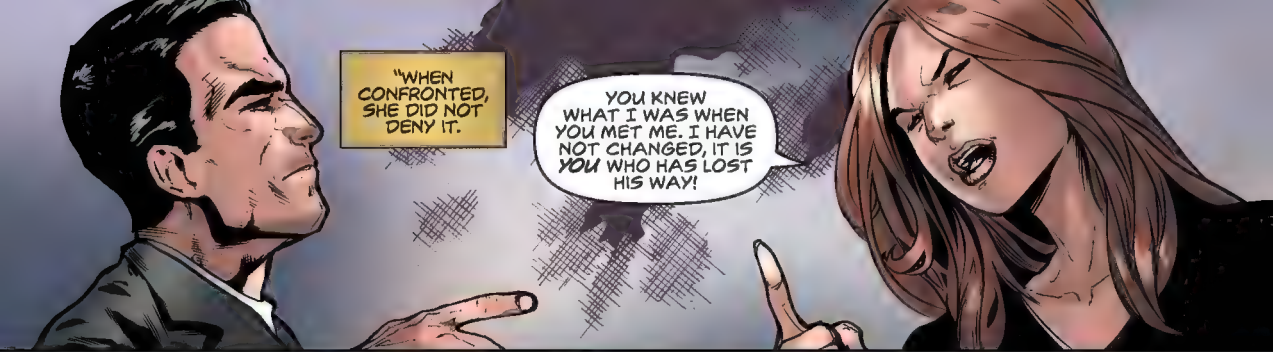


"...AND
EXPLOITED
IT."

"MY COMPETITORS USED HER WEAKNESS
FOR WEALTH TO THEIR ADVANTAGE. THEY
SOUGHT TO STEAL MY LIVELIHOOD. WHAT
WE SACRIFICED TO CREATE."

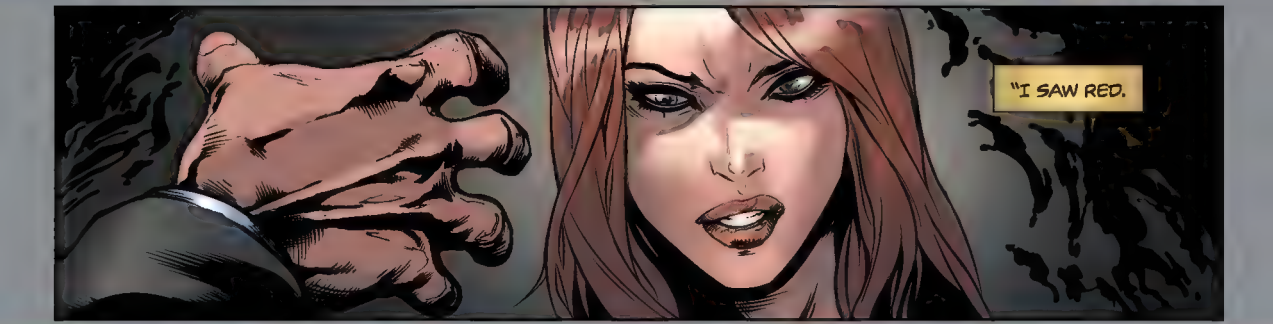


"I WAS SHATTERED."

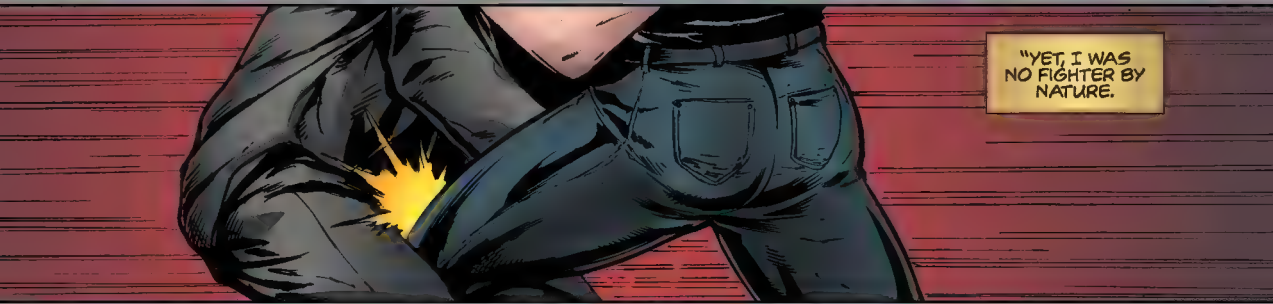


"WHEN
CONFRONTED,
SHE DID NOT
DENY IT."

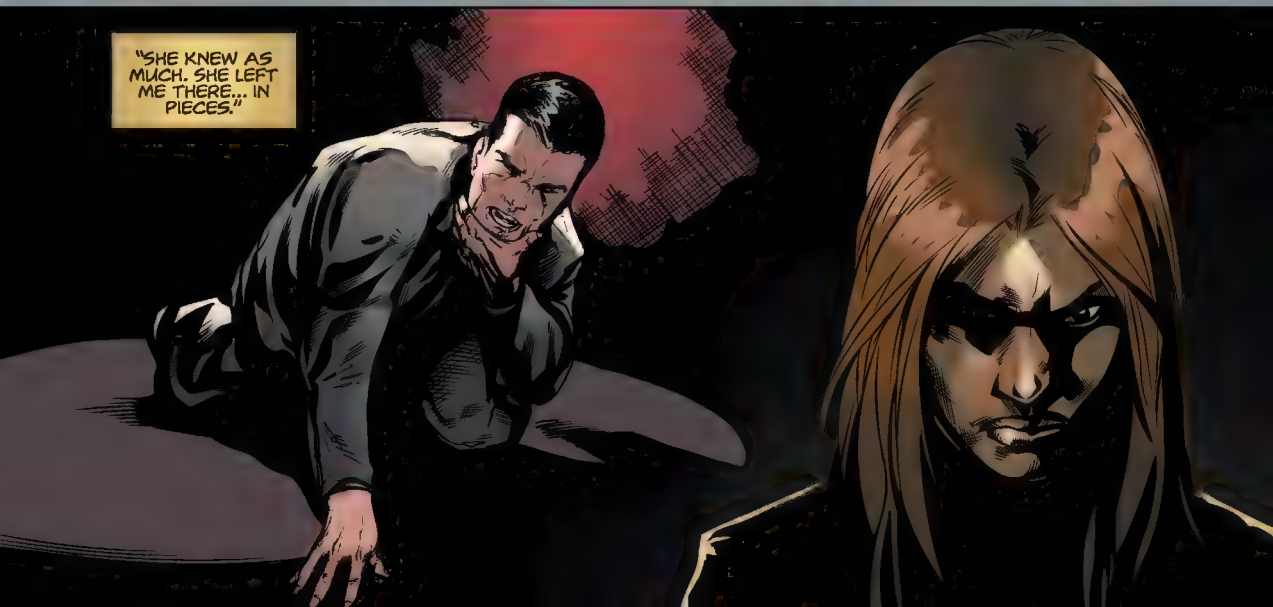
YOU KNEW
WHAT I WAS
WHEN
YOU MET ME. I HAVE
NOT CHANGED, IT IS
YOU WHO HAS LOST
HIS WAY!



"I SAW RED."



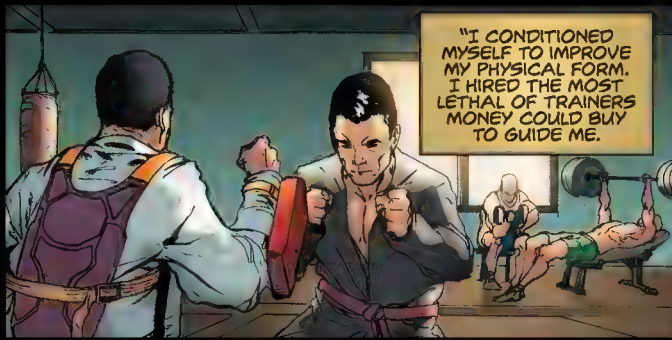
"YET, I WAS
NO FIGHTER BY
NATURE."



"SHE KNEW AS
MUCH. SHE LEFT
ME THERE... IN
PIECES."



"I MADE A VOW TO MYSELF THAT DAY-- THAT SHE WOULD BE THE LAST PERSON TO EVER SEE ME IN SUCH A LIGHT."



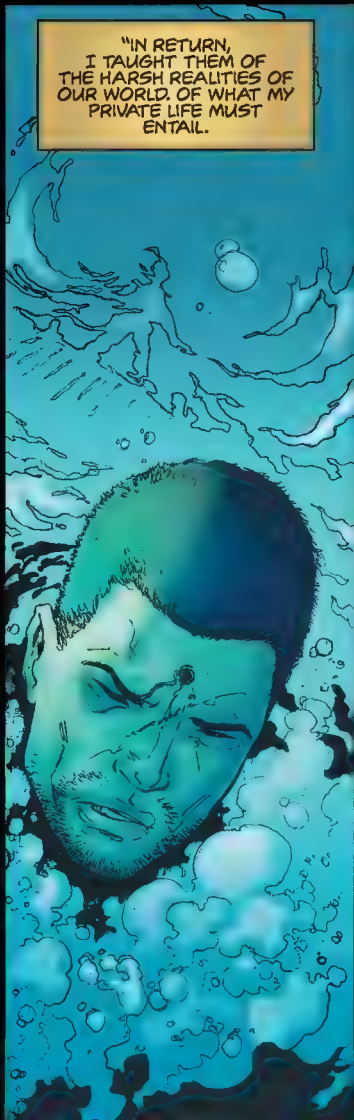
"I CONDITIONED MYSELF TO IMPROVE MY PHYSICAL FORM. I HIRED THE MOST LETHAL OF TRAINERS MONEY COULD BUY TO GUIDE ME."



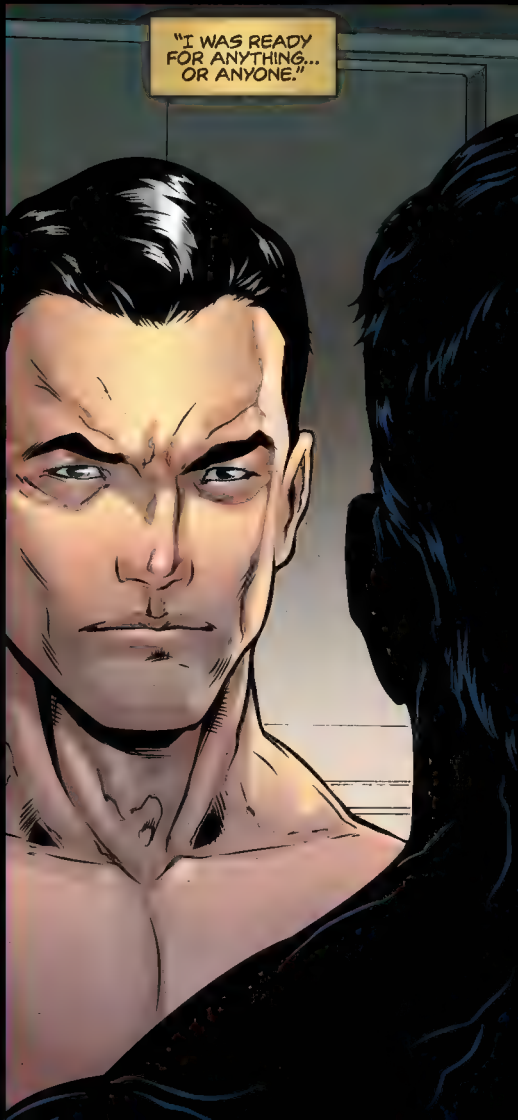
"TEACH ME HOW TO SURVIVE."



"THEY TAUGHT ME NOT ONLY HOW TO PROTECT MYSELF, BUT ALSO HOW TO BELIEVE IN MYSELF."



"IN RETURN, I TAUGHT THEM OF THE HARSH REALITIES OF OUR WORLD, OF WHAT MY PRIVATE LIFE MUST ENTAIL."



"I WAS READY FOR ANYTHING... OR ANYONE."



EVER SINCE, SHE HAS BECOME MY OBSESSION. ONLY NOW I DO NOT SEEK HER LOVE-- BUT HER BLOOD. YET, SHE HAS REMAINED OUT OF REACH.

IS THAT WHY YOU'RE DOING ALL THIS? REVENGE?

IT'S MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.

DOESN'T SEEM THAT WAY.



WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT LOVE? WHO HAVE YOU EVER FELT FOR BESIDES YOURSELF?!



ALRIGHT, ALRIGHT. TAKE IT EASY.

I'VE NEVER BEEN IN LOVE, OKAY. IT DOESN'T MEAN I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT FEELS LIKE TO BE BETRAYED.



YOU EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS, SO KNOWLEDGEABLE IN THE REALITIES OF THE WORLD, YET SO SHELTERED FROM ITS MOST CARNAL EMOTIONS.

I WANT TO RID MY BUSINESS OF THE NUISANCE OF YOUR KIND. YET, HER-- I WANT TO SEE HER FEEL PAIN.

THE NEXT DAY.

FACE IT...
WE DON'T HAVE
A CLUE HOW TO
FIND HIM, DO
WE?

I HAVE A
FEW IDEAS BUT
THAT'S ALL THEY
ARE.

GREAT,
I'M GLAD WE
FLEW ALL THIS
WAY WITHOUT
A PLAN.

IT'S NEVER
STOPPED ME
BEFORE. YOU NEED
TO LEARN TO
IMPROVISE.

NO, I NEED TO
FIND OUT WHY MY
MIND IS STILL F@*KED.
THEN I CAN WORRY
ABOUT IMPROV.

--IS WORK
ON YOUR
OPERATIONAL
SECURITY.

LADIES, WE
NEED TO FOCUS
ON--

--WHAT
YOU NEED
TO DO...

ONE MORE
STEP AND YOU'RE
A F@*KING DEAD
WOMAN! HOW DID
YOU GET IN HERE,
IT'S LOCKED DOWN
LIKE A F@*KING
VAULT!?

RELAX, HOT HEAD. I DIDN'T COME LOOKING FOR
ACTION. I CAME TO OFFER SOME ASSISTANCE.
AND FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, I CAME AT
THE RIGHT TIME.

AND WHY
SHOULD WE TRUST
YOU, CONSIDERING
THE FIRST TIME WE
MET YOU WEREN'T
SO PLEASANT?

BITCH,
YOU BROKE
MY HAND!

BECAUSE...
NOBODY WANTS
MAZUTSU DEAD
MORE THAN
ME.



ALRIGHT,
SPIT IT OUT
OR WE TAKE
YOU OUT.

THE SITUATION
WITH ROSE WAS ONE
OF OPPORTUNITY. I NEEDED
HER TO GET TO HIM, BUT YOU
ALL WERE IN THE WAY. I DID NOT
EXPECT HER TO UNKNOWINGLY
RUN ME INTO YOUR HORNET'S
NEST. I REGRET HOW IT
WENT DOWN.

YOU MEAN
WHEN YOU ATTACKED
US WITH OUR DEFENSES
DOWN? DESTROYED
LOTUS' HOME. DON'T
SUGARCOAT IT.

YES-- WHEN
I ATTACKED YOU. I...
APOLOGIZE. I TRUST IN
OUR LINE OF WORK YOU
LADIES ARE PROFESSIONAL
ENOUGH TO ALLOW ME A
REPIEVE, ONCE YOU
HEAR WHAT I CAN
OFFER?

AND WHY
WOULD WE BE SO
FORGIVING?

BECAUSE I
CAN TELL YOU WHERE
MAZUTSU IS.

WHEN I
TOOK ROSE, I ALSO
LEFT SOMETHING WITH
HER-- OR RATHER,
ON HER.

WELL
PLAYED. BUT,
FIRST TELL ME...
WHY DO YOU HATE
HIM AS MUCH
AS US?

IT'S
A LONG
STORY.



HE LIKES TO FANCY HIMSELF A HISTORIAN, AS IF HIS INHERENT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ANCIENT CUSTOMS MAKES HIS MISDEEDS ANY LESS HONORABLE.

SO THEY HAVE TAKEN UP RESIDENCE IN A BUDDHIST TEMPLE, ONE OF THE LAST REMAINING IN SHINJUKU.

YET, THE LEVEL OF PROTECTION I DARE SAY IS ABOVE OUR COMBINED LEVEL OF EXPERTISE. IT'S JUST A REALITY.

NEVER STOPPED ME BEFORE.

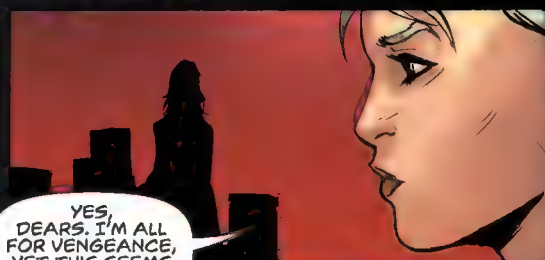


NO, LILY. THIS IS DIFFERENT. THIS IS HIS LIVELIHOOD-- WHAT DRIVES HIM. HE WANTS YOU TO COME TO HIM.

WELL, I WOULDN'T WANT TO LET HIM DOWN.



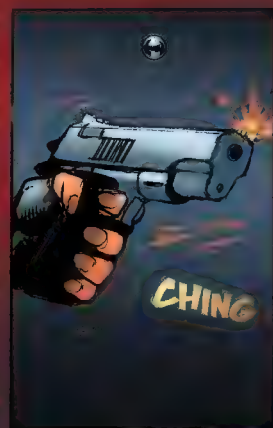
YOU ARE SUICIDAL.



YES, DEARS. I'M ALL FOR VENGEANCE, YET THIS SEEMS FOOLISH.

SHE'S RIGHT LILY. THIS IS OVER NOW.



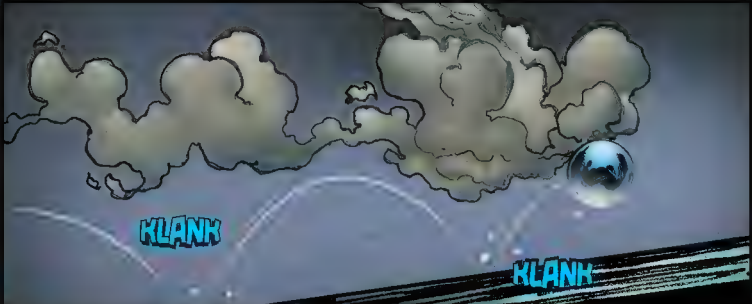




AHHHHHHH!

BANG

LILY!



KLANK

KLANK



NOT THIS SHIT AGAIN!



UNNNNGHHH!

IT'S NOT SO FUN TO BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE, IS IT?



NOW, TELL ME WHY I SHOULDN'T JUST KILL YOU HERE AND NOW?!

BECAUSE... -CHOKE-



WHOMP WHOMP WHOMP

UM, LADIES, DO YOU HEAR THAT?



...BECAUSE...



TO BE CONTINUED...

THE EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION EVENT CONTINUES!

Story by **DAVID WOHL**
 Pencils & Inks by **ALEX LEI**
 Colors by **SIYA OUM**

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT **#4**



Aspen's Inter-Series Ten Part Event
"EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION" Continues in the Pages of!

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION CHECKLIST

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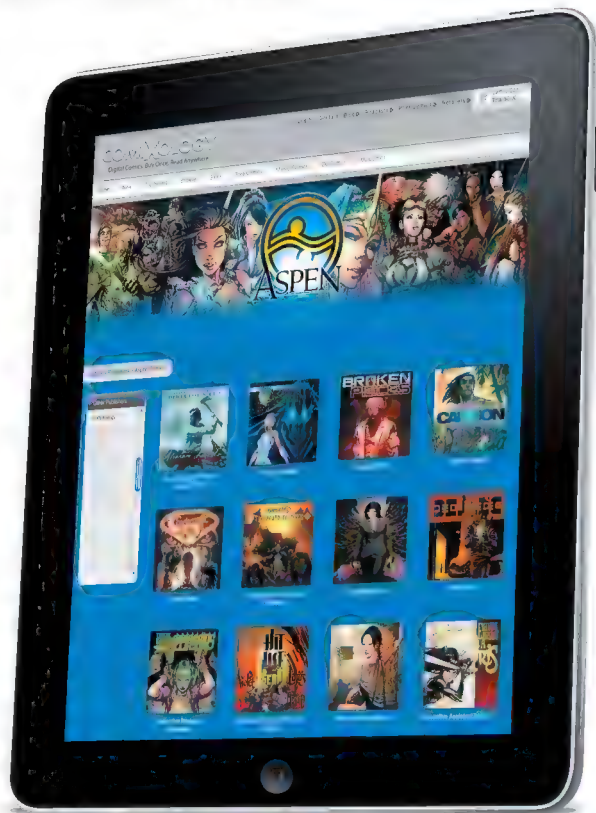
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT **ASSASSINS #10**



Story by **VINCE HERNANDEZ**
 Pencils by **JORDAN GUNDERSON**
 Inks by **CHARLIE MOK**
 Colors by **TEODORO GONZALEZ**



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CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION

EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT

ASSASSINS

Vince **HERNANDEZ**
Jordan **GUNDERSON**
Charlie **MOK**
Teodoro **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

10
COVER A



GUNDERSON
Sotelo



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BLOCKADE

ENTERTAINMENT

#10

COVER B



The story is far...

Mazutsu's ex-lover Ivy and Rose, his Executive Assistant, were forced to part ways under the threat of a helicopter attack. Yet, not before Ivy left a crack in Rose's armor, one that will lead to the sinister mastermind. Meanwhile, Mazutsu is able to track down Lily, Orchid and the others, but not to help and explain her. Or, at least, recent events. However, Orchid has proven to be far removed from her allies; she's betrayed the group by giving away their location to Mazutsu, who has arrived to exterminate them, once and for all.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSIN

EXECUTIVE EXTINCTION!

PART 5 OF 5

WRITTEN BY
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JORDAN GUNDERSON

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JORDAN GUNDERSON
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B: DIRECT EDITION
RYAN ODYAWA

Executive Assistant: Iris created by David Wohl, Brad Fox, and Michael Turner

Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 10

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I'M SHOT--
NOT CRITICAL,
BUT-- ~~F@#K~~. THIS
IS ABOUT TO GET
REAL UGLY,
FAST!



WHAT
DID YOU
DO?!

WHAT ANY
OF YOU WOULD
HAVE! MY MIND IS
F@#KED! DON'T
YOU GET IT? I
NEED HIM!



YOU ARE
WRONG. HE WILL
USE YOU AND LEAVE
YOU WORSE THAN HE
FOUND YOU-- AND
FOR WHAT?

ONLY YOUR
SOUL!



KRACK



THUD



WELL,
THAT'S **ONE THREAT**
NEUTRALIZED. YET, OUR
ODDS OF SURVIVAL STILL
GROW LESSER BY THE
MINUTE.



THE SOLDIERS
WON'T LAST AGAINST
THEM. THEY ARE ONLY
STAGE ONE. ROSE,
BRING ME LILY.

ON IT.



CARGO BIRD
IS AWAY. TROOPS
IN POSITION.

ON HIS
MARK...



...MOVE, MOVE,
MOVE!



THWUMP

THWUMP

THWUMP



KRAAAAASH

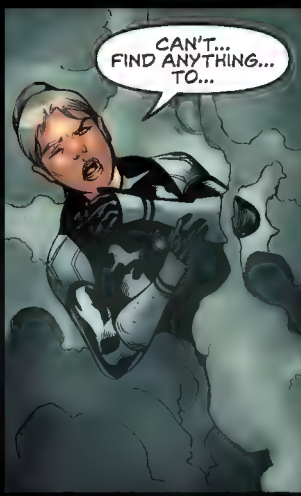


CLINK

GAS!!!

CLINK

CLINK







THINK
FAST!



THIS
SHOULD EVEN
THE ODDS.



SHIIING



KRACK



THE TARGET,
12 O'CLOCK!



BRAKA

BRAKA

BRAKA

BRAKA

BRAKA

BRAKA



DOWN
ON THE
GROUND,
NOW!

ALL
RIGHT,
YOU HAVE
ME.



BRAKA BRAKA BRAKA
BRAKA BRAKA

IVY!
MOVE!

BRAKA BRAKA



I THINK
THAT'S MOST OF
THEM! WE NEED TO
GET ASTER AND
LEAVE!

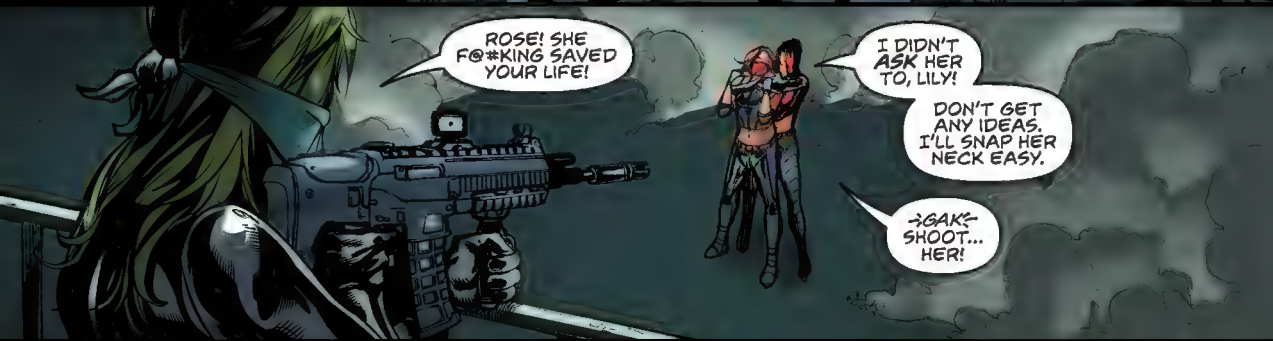
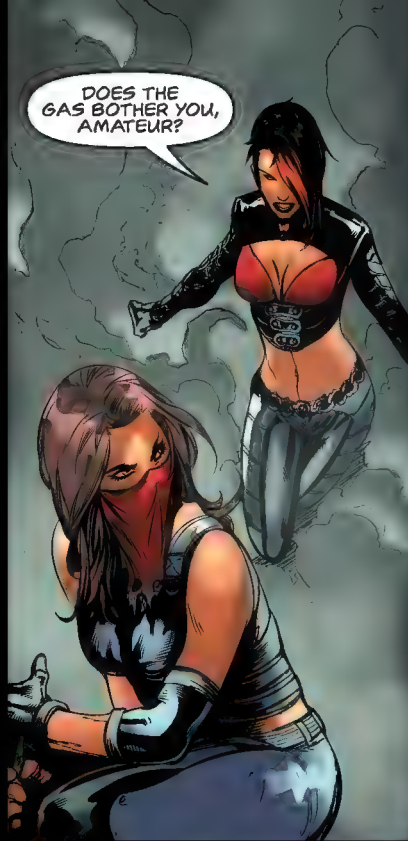
**BRAKA
BRAKA**



CHING

AAAAHHHHH!

CHING





THUNK



KRACK

IVY!



I COULDN'T
AGREE MORE.

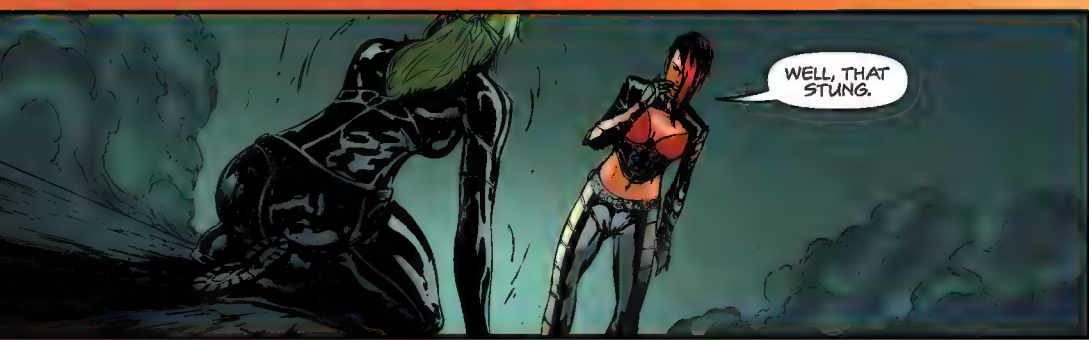


NOW, IT'S
YOUR TURN. NO
WEAPONS JUST MY
BARE HANDS. AND
LONG OVERDUE
IF YOU ASK
ME!

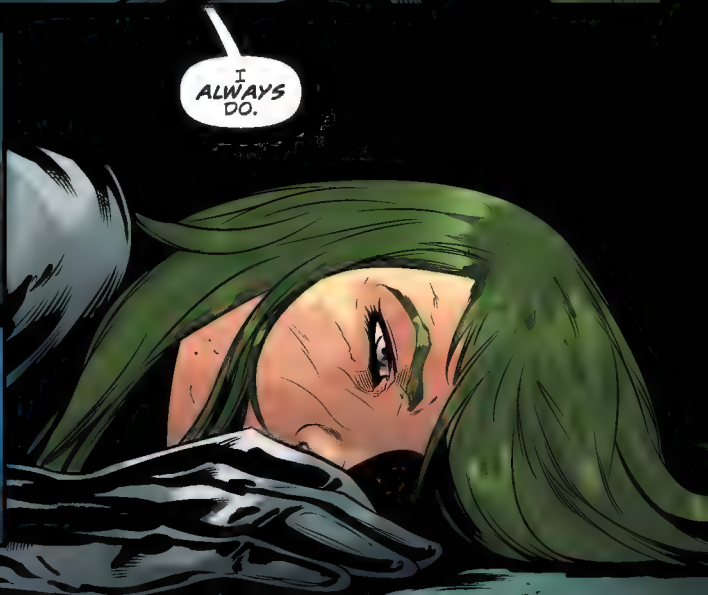
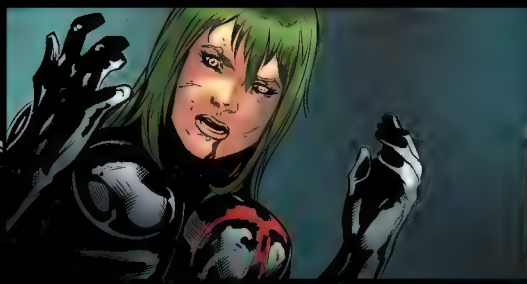


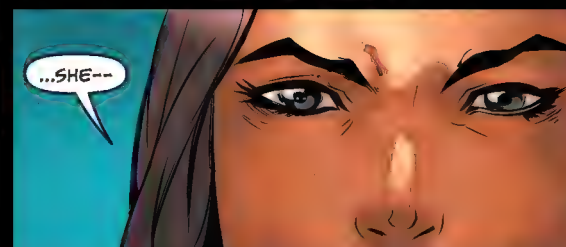
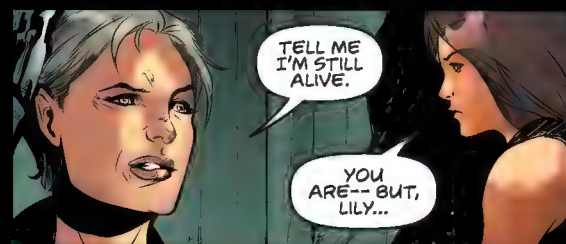
YOU'VE
HAD THIS
COMING FOR
A LONG
TIME!

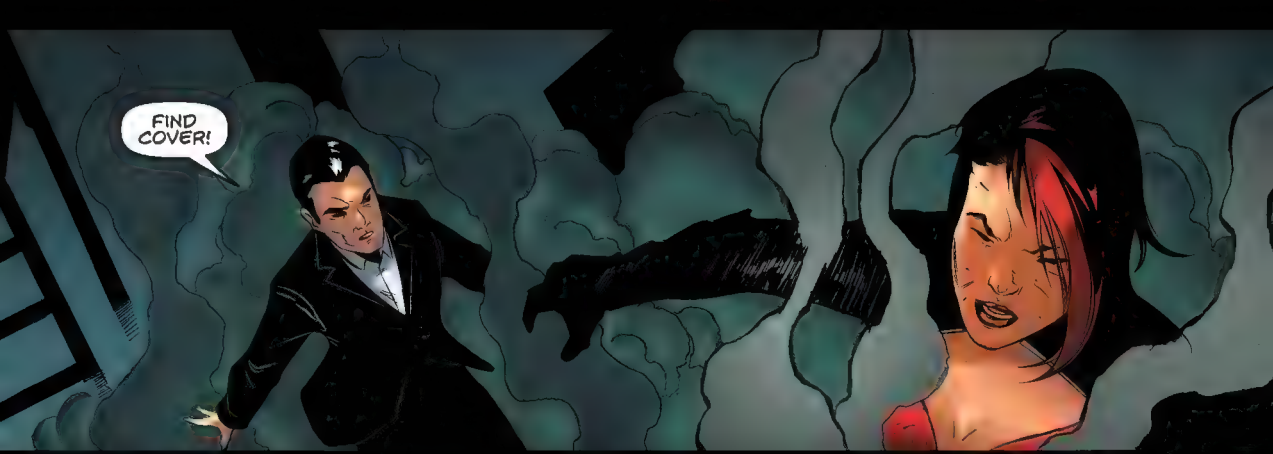












EPILOGUE.

"SHE
DESERVED
BETTER."

"TO DIE AT
THE HANDS OF
SOMEONE WITH NO
HONOR LIKE THAT--
IT IS TRULY A
SHAME."

"WHAT
DO YOU THINK
WILL HAPPEN
TO HIM?"

"HE WILL
TALK HIS WAY
OUT OF THE MESS,
AS ALL WEALTHY MEN
OF POWER HAVE
A KNACK FOR
DOING."

"ALTHOUGH, HE
WILL BE FORCED TO
TAKE HIS OPERATIONS
EVEN FURTHER UNDER-
GROUND, LESS HE ADD
ANY MORE CAUSE
FOR SUSPICION."

"BUT, HE WAS
NEVER ONE TO GET
HIS HANDS DIRTY. HE WILL
RETURN TO RELYING ON
OTHERS TO DO THAT
FOR HIM."

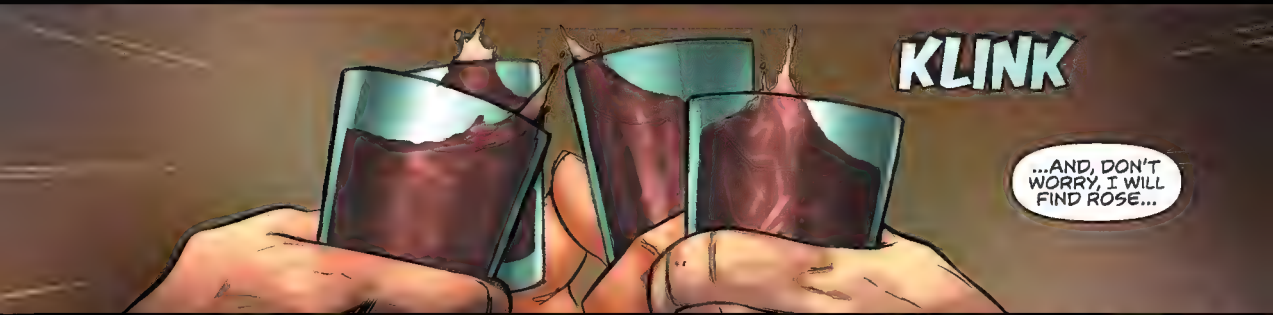
"OTHERS...
WON'T BE AS
LUCKY."

"THERE
WILL ALWAYS
BE THOSE WILLING
TO OBLIGE
HIM."



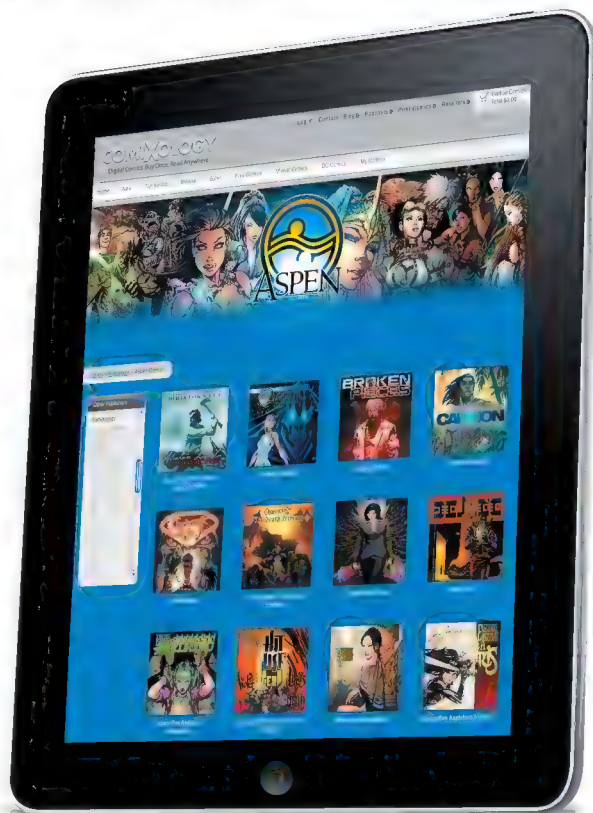








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CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#11

COVER A



CELEBRATING THE FIRST DECADE OF ASPEN COMICS!



Vince *HERNANDEZ*
Giuseppe *CAFARO*
Mark *ROSLAN*
Teodoro *GONZALEZ*
Josh *REED*

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT *ASSASSINS*

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

11

COVER B



The story so far

Executive Assistant Lotus has not used her flower moniker since the betrayal by her one and only employer, Virat Yadav. However, her career move did not stop her from finding her, as Rani's lavish mansion was turned into the staging ground for a vicious battle between rivaling Executives. After, she would painfully discover that her past ally Lily had also been involved in the plot of bloodshed and tragedy that has shadowed her existence.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANTS ASSASSINS

[BLOODLINE]

PART 1 OF 1

WRITTEN BY
VINCE HERNANDEZ

CHARACTER DESIGN
GIUSEPPE CAFARO

COVER DESIGN
MARK ROSLAN

EDITOR
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LETTERING
JOSH REED



A: DIRECT EDITION
GIUSEPPE CAFARO
NEI RUFFINO



B: DIRECT EDITION
SIYA OUM

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Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO | Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

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ALWAR, INDIA.

THIS IS MY HOME. MUCH LIKE MY
EXISTENCE, THEY BOTH SHARE A
PARALLEL. IT STANDS BEFORE ME
WRECKED AND DAMAGED.

YET, THIS IS NOT ONLY
MY HOME, BUT THE LAND MY
ANCESTORS INHABITED FOR
MORE THAN A CENTURY.



A BLOODLINE THAT TRULY
LIVES UP TO ITS NAME.



DEATH IS OUR LIFE.

TWO DECADES EARLIER.

WHEN YOU ARE A CHILD, YOU DO NOT YEARN
TO GROW UP TO BECOME A MURDERER.

MOST CHILDREN IN MY VILLAGE HAD
DREAMS OF BECOMING DOCTORS,
SCIENTISTS, OR EVEN LAWYERS...

...TO MAKE THEIR
PARENTS PROUD. FOR
ME, HOWEVER...

...MY FATHER'S
PRIORITIES WERE
LESS... CIVIL.

HRAAAA!

YOU PROVIDE
ADEQUATE PRACTICE,
RAKISH. YET, YOUR FEAR
IS WRITTEN BRIGHT AS
DAY WITH YOUR BODY
LANGUAGE.

YES, FATHER.
I WILL REFINE
MY FORM.

HE WAS KNOWN SIMPLY AS "THE FATHER",
EVEN TO HIS ASSOCIATES-- NOT JUST TO ME, HIS ONLY
DAUGHTER. MY MOTHER HAD ABANDONED US WHEN I
WAS A LITTLE GIRL. IT WAS ONLY US TWO.

RANI--
YOUR CLOTHES...?
WHAT IS IT?

IT IS
NOTHING,
FATHER.


DO NOT LIE
TO ME, YOUNG
LADY.

I AM
NOT LYING...
IT IS JUST... SOME
GIRLS IN MY CLASS...
THEY.. SMASHED
THE TRANSMITTER
I BUILT.

THEY MAKE
FUN OF ME. PUSH
ME. CALL ME "MICRO-
CHIP", LIKE I SAID--
IT IS NOTHING.

LIFT YOUR
HEAD, YOUNG LADY.
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO
BE ASHAMED OF.

COME WITH ME,
RANI. I BELIEVE IT IS
TIME I SHOWED YOU
SOMETHING.




YOUR LOVE OF SCIENCE
AND GADGETS IS ADMIRABLE,
YET I FEAR YOU HAVE **MUCH** TO
LEARN WHEN IT COMES TO THE
TOOLS OF SURVIVAL-- AND
WHO YOU ARE.




DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
BUSINESS OUR
FAMILY IS IN? WHAT
OUR BLOODLINE
HAS CREATED
FOR US?



YOU... HURT
PEOPLE?



AND
NOW I WILL
TEACH YOU OF
THE POWER OUR
LINEAGE HAS
PROVIDED
US.



THAT IS
INCORRECT. WHAT
I DO IS FREE PEOPLE.
FROM THEIR OWN
PAIN.

THE LIFE THEY
HAVE CHOSEN HAS LED THEM
ASTRAY, DOWN AVENUES THEY
CANNOT RETURN FROM. MY ACTIONS,
WHILE PERMANENT, RELEASE THEM
FROM THEIR IMPRISONMENT--
FOREVER.

HE TAUGHT ME EVERY MARTIAL ART HE HAD LEARNED IN HIS MANY YEARS OF WORK, WHICH WAS NEARLY ALL OF THEM.

MY FATHER WAS STERN, YET COMPASSIONATE.

YOUR ENEMIES WILL SEEK TO KEEP YOU OFF-BALANCE, AS SUCH.

YOU MUST LEARN TO MAINTAIN POISE NO MATTER THE SITUATION.

YOU MUST BE ABLE TO PIECE TOGETHER NOT ONLY THE SITUATION, BUT ALSO THE ELEMENTS WITHIN.

WAIT.

I LEARNED TO NOT FEAR THE DARK...

...BUT TO EMBRACE IT.

GRRRR

...AND BECOME A PREDATOR.



NOT YET,
RAN!! WAIT
FOR IT...

PATIENCE IS THE
KEY. IT'S WHAT SEPARATES A
CONTRACTOR FROM SOMEONE
WHO KILLS OUT OF
PASSION...

...WE WAIT...

...UNTIL OPPORTUNITY
STRIKES.

IF YOU COULD
ONLY KNOW THE
PRIDE I HAVE FOR
YOU AT THIS
MOMENT.

YES, OUR
KIND IS RARE,
INDEED.

FATHER THOUGHT THAT MY OBSESSION WITH TECHNOLOGY WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME, BUT I WAS DETERMINED TO SHOW HIM THE POSSIBILITIES IT POSSESSED.

I ALREADY KNEW AT THE AGE OF TEN THAT I WAS SMARTER THAN MOST OF MY PEERS-- MAYBE EVEN MANY ADULTS. BUT, I NEVER CARED WHAT THEY THOUGHT ANYWAY.

ONLY HIS APPROVAL MATTERED.

FATHER, LOOK!

ANOTHER GADGET, RAN? HAVEN'T I TOLD YOU BEFORE--

--WATCH!

WHAT A CURIOUS DEVICE--

--COUGH--
WHAT...?
--COUGH--

SEE, FATHER, MY GADGETS CAN BE USEFUL! THIS WAS A LOW-GRADE CONCENTRATE OF BUG SPRAY AND FERTILIZER. TRIGGERED BY A CONTACT SENSOR.

THUD

HMM.

YES, HIS APPROVAL MEANT EVERYTHING TO ME.

HOWEVER, THOSE DAYS OF MY YOUTH--
DAYS I CHERISHED-- SOON TURNED INTO ADULTHOOD.
THIS IS WHEN EVERYTHING CHANGED.

YOU REMIND
ME WITH EACH
PASSING DAY OF YOUR
MOTHER. SHE TOO WAS
BEAUTIFUL BEYOND
WORDS.

THANK YOU,
FATHER.

SHE WAS A
GLORIOUS WOMAN,
YOUR MOTHER.

HOWEVER, I WAS
FOOLISH THEN. I SOUGHT
TO CHANGE HER IN WAYS THAT
I THOUGHT WOULD MAKE US
BOTH HAPPY. HOW WRONG
I WAS.

YOU SEE,
RANI. THIS LIFESTYLE...
IT CHANGES NOT ONLY
WHO WE ARE, BUT OUR
LOVED ONES AS
WELL.

FATHER... WHY
ARE YOU TELLING
ME THIS?

BECAUSE I
WANT TO GIVE YOU
SOMETHING.

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY.

YOU
DIDN'T HAVE
TO--

--YES, I
DID. OPEN
IT.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL

THIS NECKLACE...

...RANI, THIS BELONGED
TO YOUR MOTHER. I GAVE
IT TO HER, BUT SHE LEFT IT UPON
HER DEPARTURE. WHEN SHE LEFT
BOTH OF US. NOW... I WANT
YOU TO HAVE IT.

YOU WILL
WEAR IT PROUDLY,
WON'T YOU?

ALWAYS,
FATHER.

BUT, LIKE ALL
THINGS IN MY LIFE--
PEACE WAS NEVER
CONSTANT.

RANI--
WAKE UP! COME,
WE MUST LEAVE,
NOW.

WHAT IS IT,
FATHER?

I DO NOT
HAVE MUCH TIME
TO EXPLAIN, BUT I WILL
NOT SHIELD YOU FROM
THE REALITIES OF
OUR SITUATION.

MY COMPETITION
SEEKS TO END MY
BUSINESS, AND BY DOING
SO-- MY LIFE, THIS PERSON...
HAS MANY RESOURCES AT
THEIR DISPOSAL. WE CANNOT
STAY HERE, IT IS TOO
DANGEROUS FOR
YOU.

FATHER?

PLEASE, WE
MUST GO NOW,
RANI.

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THE
RULES OF HIS OCCUPATION
BECAME PAINFULLY OBVIOUS
TO ME. THE NIGHT WE LEFT
OUR HOME.

WE TRAVELED TO A SAFE HOUSE. I WILL NOT LIE, MY HEART SUNK AT THE SQUALOR EXISTENCE IT PROVIDED. I WAS, AFTER ALL, A GIRL OF MEANS UP UNTIL THAT POINT.

YET, I WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER IT AS THE MOST CHERISHED TIME OF MY LIFE, WITH ONLY EACH OTHER TO DEPEND ON. I WAS ALWAYS THE CENTER OF HIS ATTENTION.

IT IS WHISKEY--- HERE, GIVE IT A TRY.

REALLY.

REALLY? I CAN?

SPFFFFF! GROSS!

HAHAHAHA!

I WAS ALWAYS SAFE WITH HIM...

...UNTIL ONE NIGHT I WASN'T.

AAAAAHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!!!!

FATHER!?

I WILL NEVER
FORGET AWAKENING
TO THE SOUND OF
HIS AGONY...

FATHER!

—GASP!—


...OR WHAT
I SAW BEFORE
ME.

NO...

SOMEONE
HAD REACHED
US.

EVERYTHING
CHANGED AT THAT
MOMENT.

FROM THAT POINT ON, MY LIFE
HELD A DIFFERENT PURPOSE.

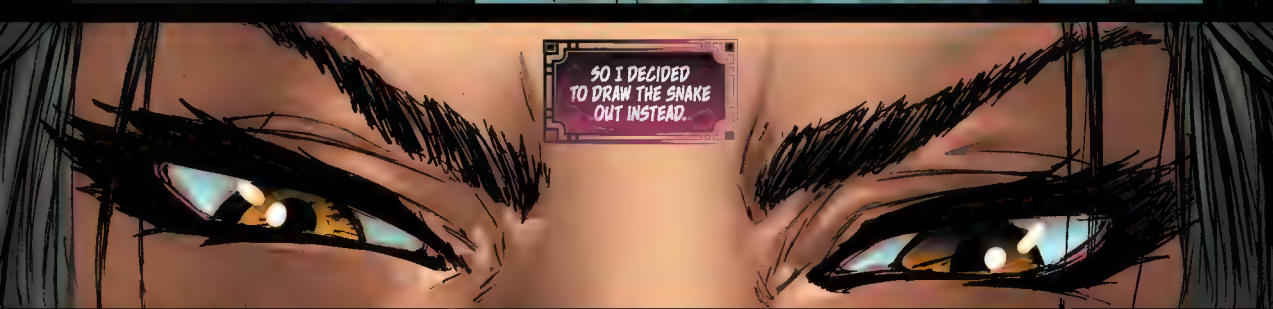
A full-page comic book illustration of a female character with long dark hair, wearing a grey tactical bodysuit with multiple straps and buckles. She has a serious expression. The background is split into three vertical panels. The left panel shows a dark, gothic-style interior with stone arches. The middle panel shows a wooden floor with several handguns and a hand reaching out. The right panel shows a close-up of a hand with a mechanical device. Text boxes are present in the top left, top middle, and bottom right.

I RETURNED
HOME. THE YOUNG DAUGHTER OF
A SLAIN ASSASSIN-- APPARENTLY
NOT A THREAT TO MY FATHER'S
COMPETITORS.

...OR SO THEY
THOUGHT.

CLICK

I WOULD SHOW THEM
JUST HOW WRONG THEY
WERE, INDEED.





WHOOOOSH

BANG

BANG

...UPHELD
OUR FAMILY'S
TRADITION.

BANG

WHISHKK

I KNEW IT WOULDN'T BE LONG BEFORE
THE TIGER TRACKED ME DOWN AS WELL.
CAME OUT OF HIDING TO FIND ME.

SURE ENOUGH,
ONE NIGHT MY WISH
CAME TRUE.

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP

I WAS NINETEEN. STILL NOT
ENTIRELY TRAINED IN THE ART OF
SELF-DEFENSE. I WAS CERTAINLY
MORE OFFENSIVE THEN.

I KNOW
YOU'RE COMING
FOR ME, NO REASON
TO SNEAK ABOUT
IN YOUR OWN
HOME.

THE TIGER I
PRESUME...?



WHAT
GAVE IT
AWAY?

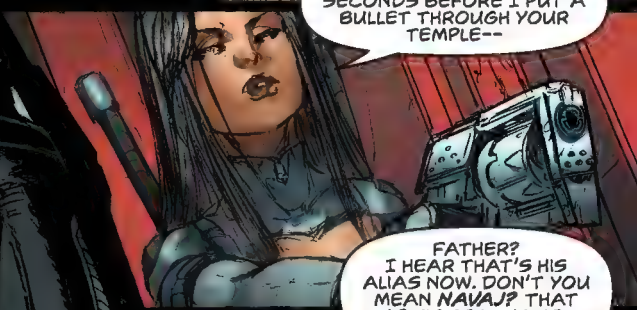
WOULDN'T
TIGRESS BE MORE
APPROPRIATE?

OH, YOU KNOW
HOW THIS BUSINESS CAN
BE. THE CLIENTS FIND OUT YOU'RE
A WOMAN AND FORM THEIR OWN
PRE-CONCEIVED NOTIONS ABOUT
WHO YOU ARE, AND WHAT
YOU CAN DO.

I KNOW THAT
FEELING ALL TOO
WELL. YOU KILLED
MY FATHER...



...AND NOW
YOU HAVE ABOUT THREE
SECONDS BEFORE I PUT A
BULLET THROUGH YOUR
TEMPLE--



FATHER?
I HEAR THAT'S HIS
ALIAS NOW. DON'T YOU
MEAN NAVAJ? THAT
IS HIS REAL NAME,
AFTER ALL.



HOW DO
YOU--?



INTERESTING.
I THOUGHT YOU
WERE A CLEVER ONE,
BUT APPARENTLY I
OVERESTIMATED
YOU.

YOU DON'T
KNOW, DO
YOU?



YOUR
FATHER-- OR
"THE FATHER"--
AS EVERYONE
KNOWS HIM...

IMPRESSIVE.

I SEE HE
TAUGHT YOU
WELL.

HE TAUGHT
ME EVERYTHING.
IT WAS ONLY HIM,
AFTER ALL.

I GUESS
I DESERVE
THAT.

BUT, I'M NOT
GOING TO SHOOT
YOU. YOU'RE MY
ONLY DAUGHTER.
BESIDES--

--IT WOULD BE
TOO EASY.

CRAAAAK

THUNK

~COUGH!~

THIS LIFESTYLE
DOESN'T SUIT YOU,
RANI. EVEN I COULD SEE
IT FROM THE MOMENT YOU
WERE BORN! YOU'RE NOT
LIKE US. GIVE IT UP!



GIVE IT UP, AND I WILL LET YOU LIVE, UNLIKE YOUR FATHER!

CRACK



SMACK

-COUGH!- O-O-KAY...



SO YOU ARE WISE, AFTER ALL.

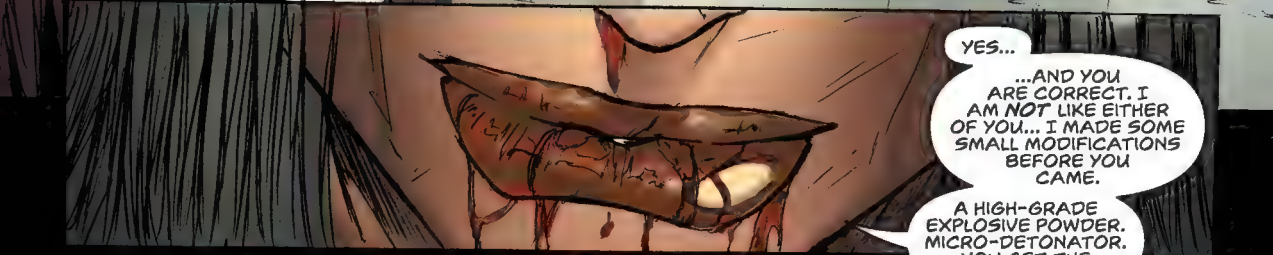
GOOD-BYE, RANI. I ANTICIPATE WE WILL NEVER SEE EACH OTHER AG--

--WAIT...

TAKE THIS, IT'S YOURS... I NEVER WANTED IT ANYWAY.

RIIP

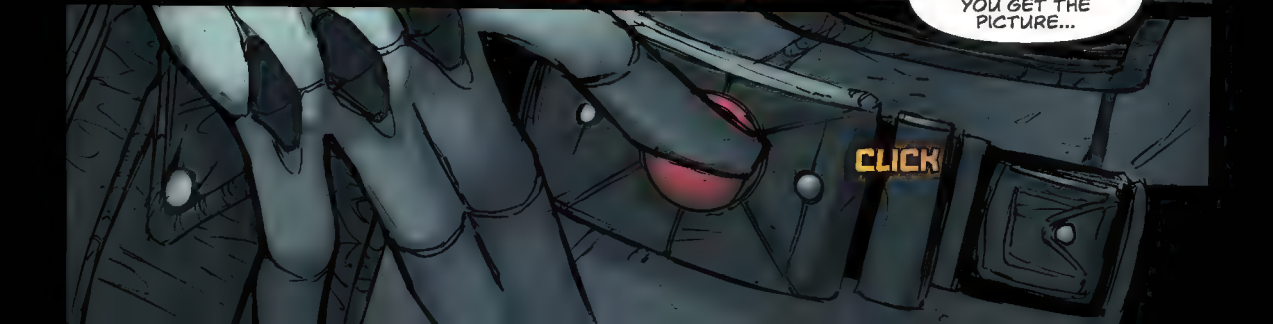
I KNEW HE WOULD EVENTUALLY GIVE THIS TO YOU.



YES...

...AND YOU ARE CORRECT. I AM NOT LIKE EITHER OF YOU... I MADE SOME SMALL MODIFICATIONS BEFORE YOU CAME.

A HIGH-GRADE EXPLOSIVE POWDER. MICRO-DETONATOR. YOU GET THE PICTURE...



CLICK

KABOOOOOM



I AM
DIFFERENT.



THIS IS MY HOME.



BUILT UPON THE
BLOOD OF MY FAMILY'S
HISTORY.

MEMORIES
THAT WILL NEVER
FADE.

AND NO MATTER
HOW MANY TIMES I MUST
REBUILD, IT WILL ALWAYS
BE HOME.

CORRECTION.
MAKE THAT...



OUR HOME.

END

From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Fathom: David Wohl (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and Michael Turner (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN

INTRODUCING
A BRAND NEW
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSIN!

#12

DAISY
PART 1 OF 4

Aspen's First Ever
Ongoing Series Continues
with a New Story Arc!

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: LORI HANSON
INKS BY: CHARLIE MOK
COLORS: TEDDORO GONZALEZ

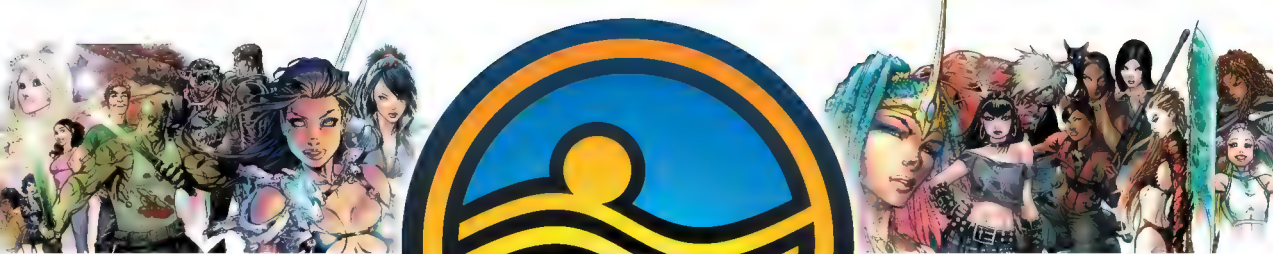


LORI "CROSS" HANSON
COVER A

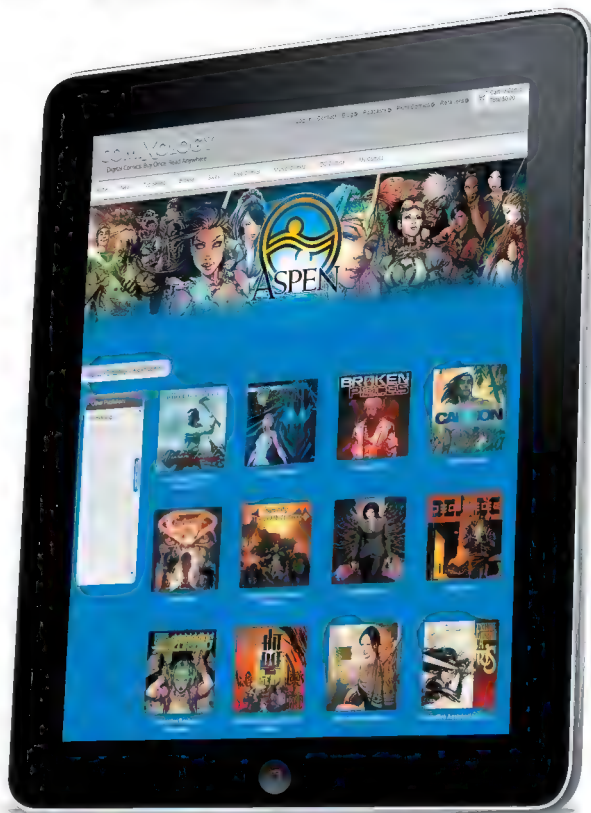
VINCENZO CUCCA
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ASSISTANT

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12

COVER A

INTRODUCING
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT:

Daisy



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12

COVER B



The story is far...
They are raised from their youth with strict obedience and brutally trained to protect and serve their respective masters with discipline, loyalty, and often times violence. They are the Executive Assistant.

THE ASSASSIN'S ASSISTANT

DAISY

PART 1 OF 4

WRITTEN BY
VINCE HERNANDEZ

CHARACTER DESIGN BY
LORI "CROSS" HANSON

ILLUSTRATED BY
CHARLIE MOK

EDITED BY
TEODORO GONZALEZ

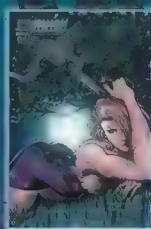
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ASSASSIN EDITION
PASQUALE QUALANG
BETH SOTTERO

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Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

Lettering font designed by: DREAMER DESIGN

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 12

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I HATE PARTIES.

ALWAYS HAVE. DRUNKEN IDIOTS.
TERRIBLE MUSIC. PEOPLE ACTING
LIKE THEY DON'T HAVE A CARE IN
THE WORLD---IT'S TOTAL
BULLSHIT.

MAPLE
BROOK

...YOU MIGHT SAY
MY INTERESTS ARE
GROUNDED IN MORE
REAL EMOTIONS.

PASSION.

ECSTASY.



AND FEAR

CHOKE!



ACK...
PLEAAAAASE!

DON'T WASTE
YOUR PRECIOUS
BREATH TRYING TO
SPEAK. YOU ONLY HAVE
A FEW MOMENTS
LEFT-- **CHERISH
THEM.**



I LOVE TO FEEL THE FEAR
IN THEIR HEARTS. GENERATING
FROM DEEP WITHIN THEIR SOUL
AND OUT OF THEIR PORES



ACKKKKKKK!!!



GGGGGGGHHHHHHH...

FEAR OF THE
UNKNOWN



FEAR OF WHAT WILL HAPPEN
WHEN THEIR HEART STOPS
BEATING. I CAN FEEL THAT
FEAR TRANSFER INTO ME
IT RADIATES



I LIVE FOR THIS FEELING

FOUR YEARS EARLIER.

SMACK

HOW DOES IT FEEL?!

DAD-- STOP!

SHUT YOUR MOUTH! OR IS THAT TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOU CONSIDERING HOW MUCH TIME YOU SPEND IN THE COMPANY OF FILTHY MEN?!

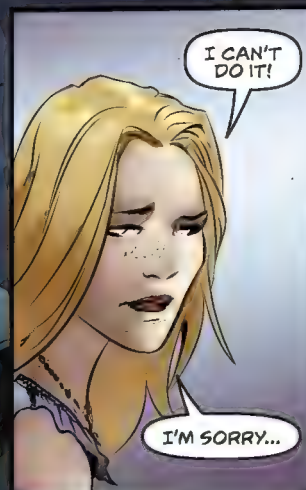
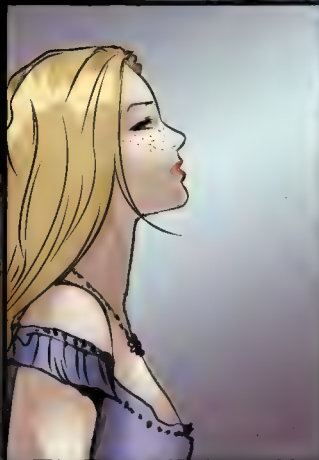
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, I SWEAR!

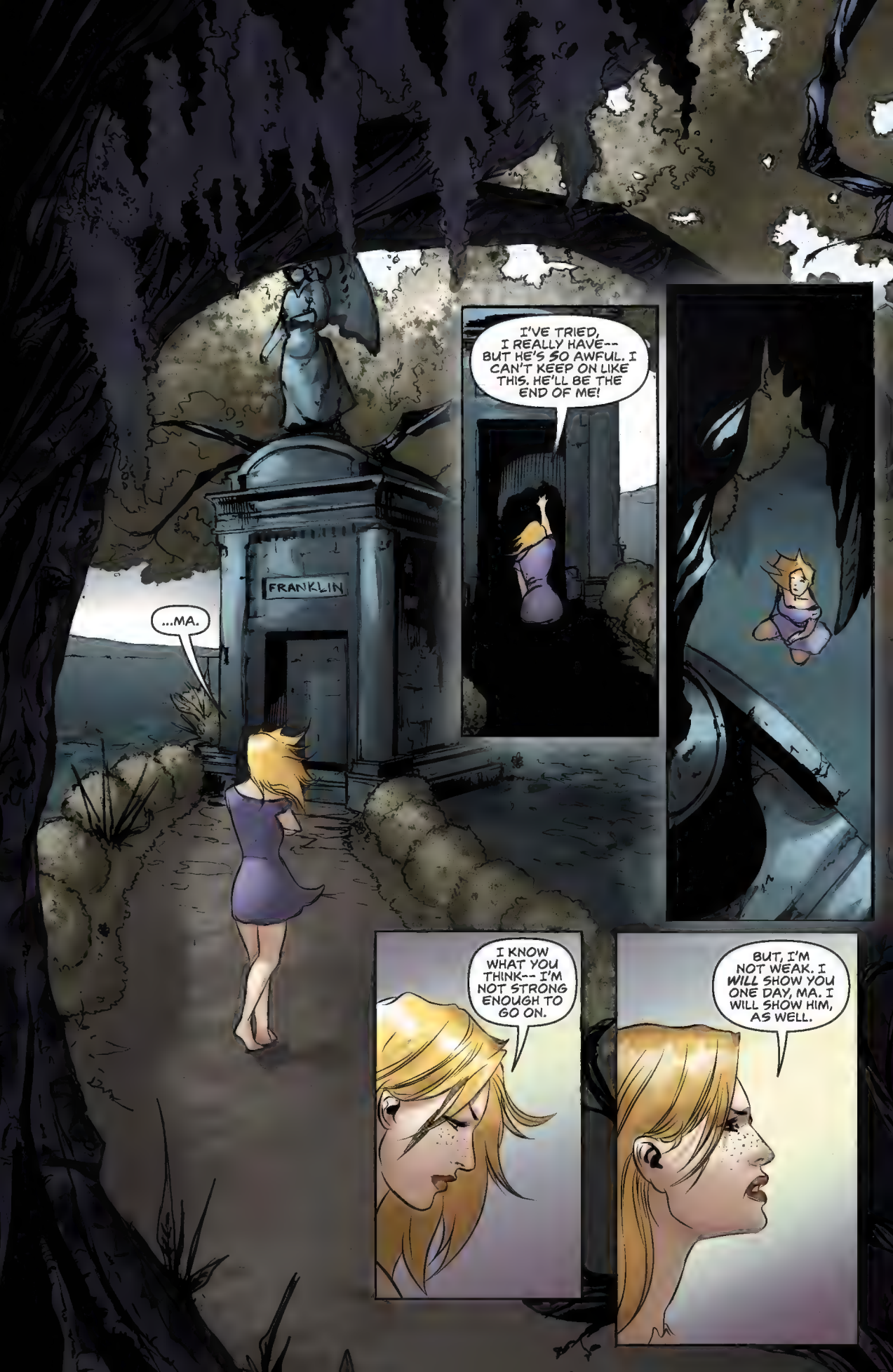
YOU SWEAR?! WHO ARE YOU TO SWEAR OATH TO ANYTHING? LOOK AROUND AT EVERYTHING I HAVE GIVEN YOU--AND HOW DO YOU REPAY ME? BY SNEAKING OUT OF THE HOUSE AND WHORING YOURSELF AROUND TOWN!

IT'S NOT WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE!

SMACK

PERCEPTION IS EVERYTHING, DAISY! DON'T YOU GET IT?! OUT THERE, WE MUST KEEP UP APPEARANCES! HAVE I TAUGHT YOU NOTHING?





...MA.

I'VE TRIED,
I REALLY HAVE---
BUT HE'S SO AWFUL. I
CAN'T KEEP ON LIKE
THIS. HE'LL BE THE
END OF ME!



I KNOW
WHAT YOU
THINK-- I'M
NOT STRONG
ENOUGH TO
GO ON.



BUT, I'M
NOT WEAK. I
WILL SHOW YOU
ONE DAY, MA. I
WILL SHOW HIM,
AS WELL.



DUPONT SHIPPING YARD

YOU
SMELL THAT,
BOYS?

THAT'S
OPPORTUNITY.

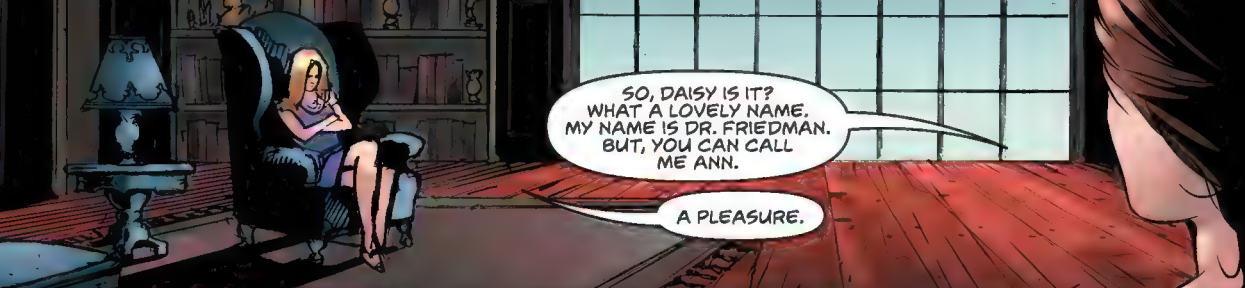
SMELLS
LIKE ~~SHIT~~ TO
ME. NO DIFFERENT
THAN THE SEA YARD
DISTRICTS OF
TONGBAI.

YOU ARE WRONG.
THERE IS *MUCH* MORE TO
THEIR WAY OF LIFE OUT HERE
THAN IN TONGBAI. WE CAN MAKE
SOMETHING OF OURSELVES OUT
HERE. CAPITALISM WILL SET
US FREE, TRUST IN THAT.

IF
YOU SAY
SO.

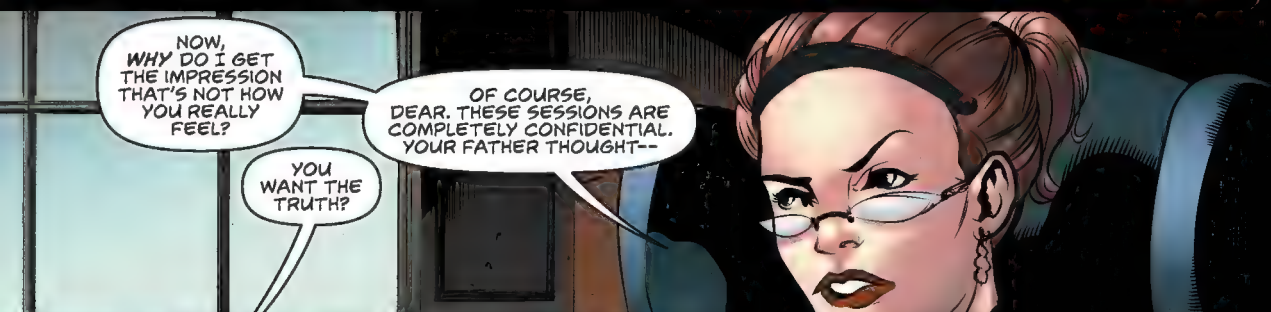
IF YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
SHARE IN THE MOMENT,
WHY DON'T YOU GET
THE REST OF THE
CREW READY?

WITH
PLEASURE.



SO, DAISY IS IT?
WHAT A LOVELY NAME.
MY NAME IS DR. FRIEDMAN.
BUT, YOU CAN CALL
ME ANN.

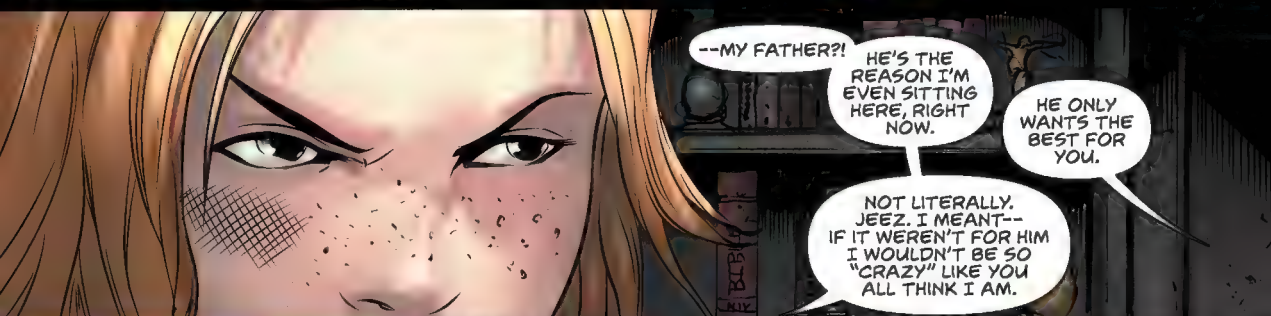
A PLEASURE.



NOW,
WHY DO I GET
THE IMPRESSION
THAT'S NOT HOW
YOU REALLY
FEEL?

OF COURSE,
DEAR. THESE SESSIONS ARE
COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL.
YOUR FATHER THOUGHT--

YOU
WANT THE
TRUTH?

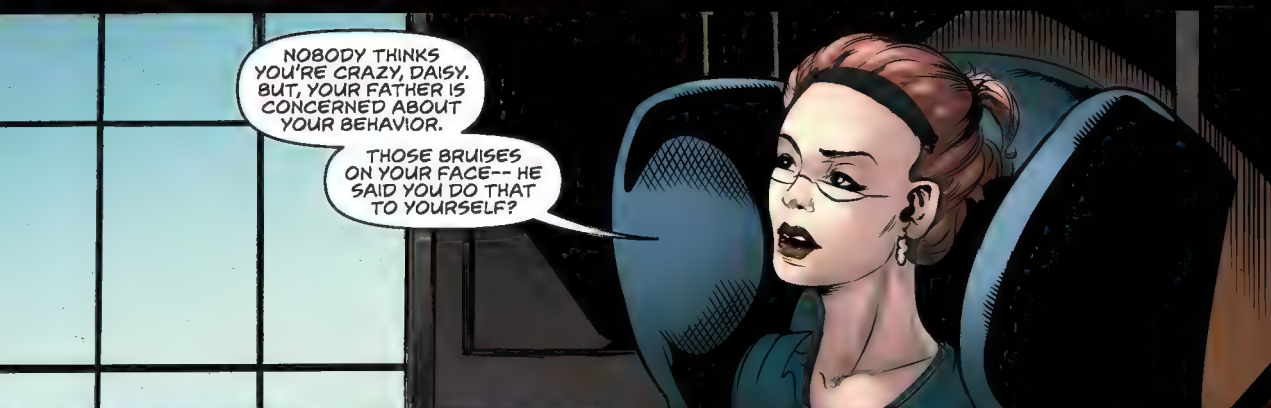


--MY FATHER?!

HE'S THE
REASON I'M
EVEN SITTING
HERE, RIGHT
NOW.

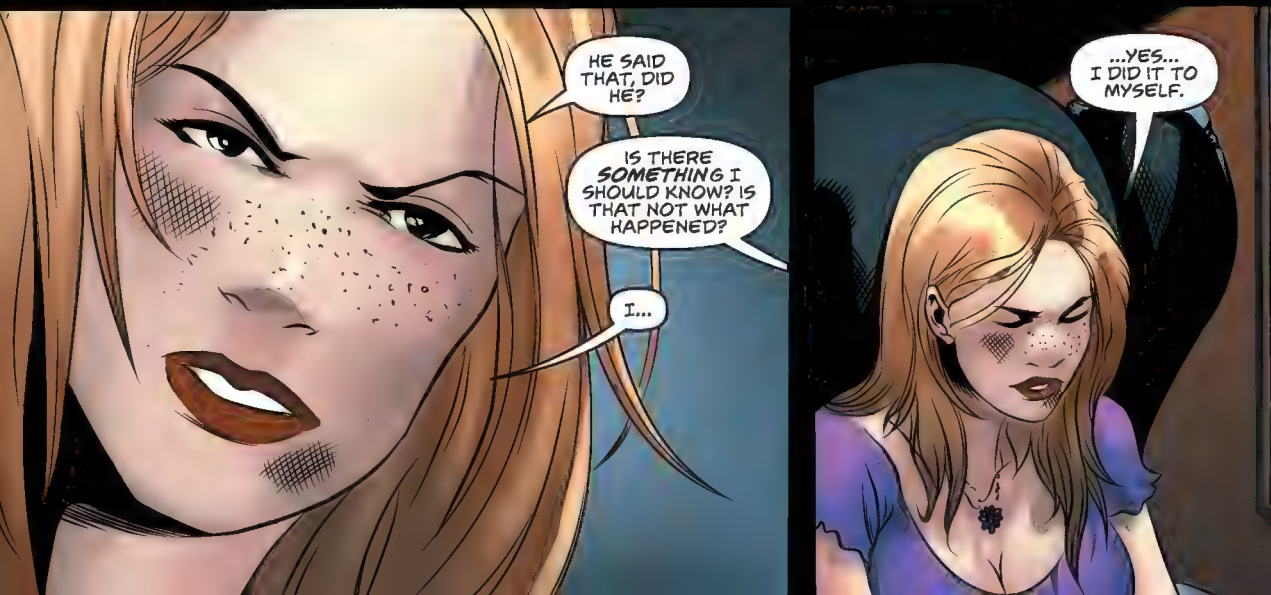
HE ONLY
WANTS THE
BEST FOR
YOU.

NOT LITERALLY.
JEEZ. I MEANT--
IF IT WEREN'T FOR HIM
I WOULDN'T BE SO
"CRAZY" LIKE YOU
ALL THINK I AM.



NOBODY THINKS
YOU'RE CRAZY, DAISY.
BUT, YOUR FATHER IS
CONCERNED ABOUT
YOUR BEHAVIOR.

THOSE BRUISES
ON YOUR FACE-- HE
SAID YOU DO THAT
TO YOURSELF?

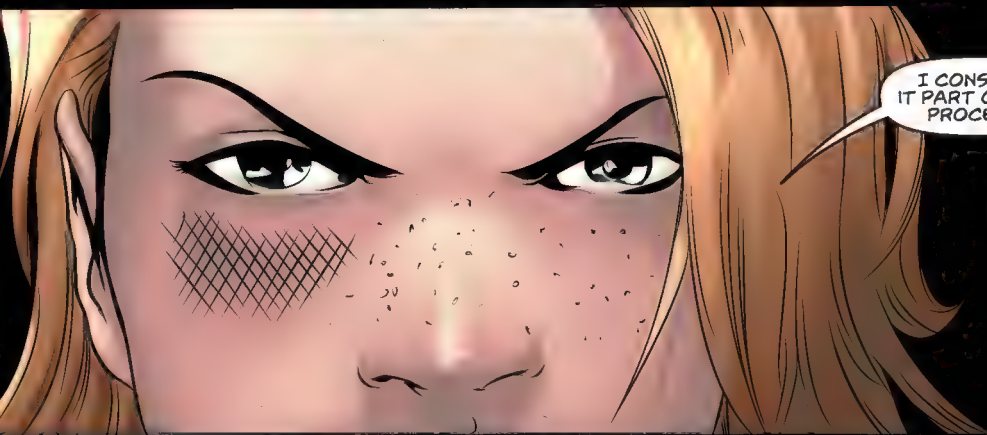
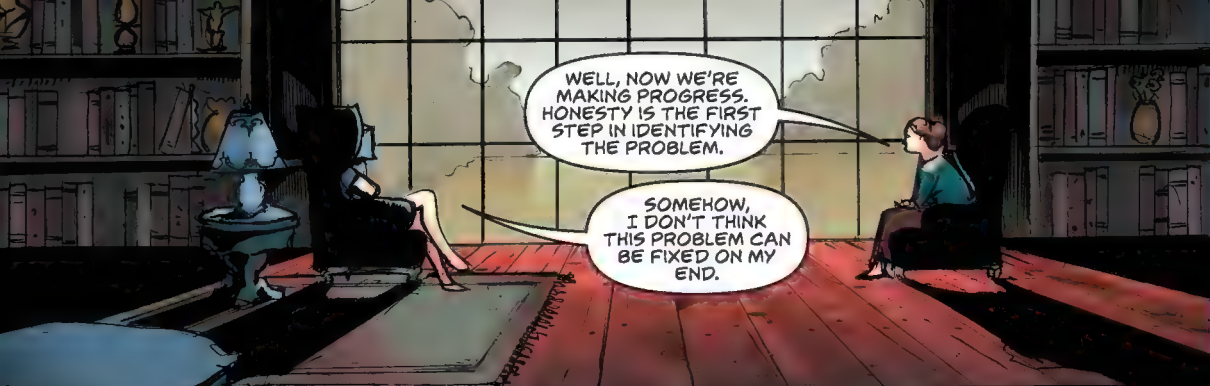


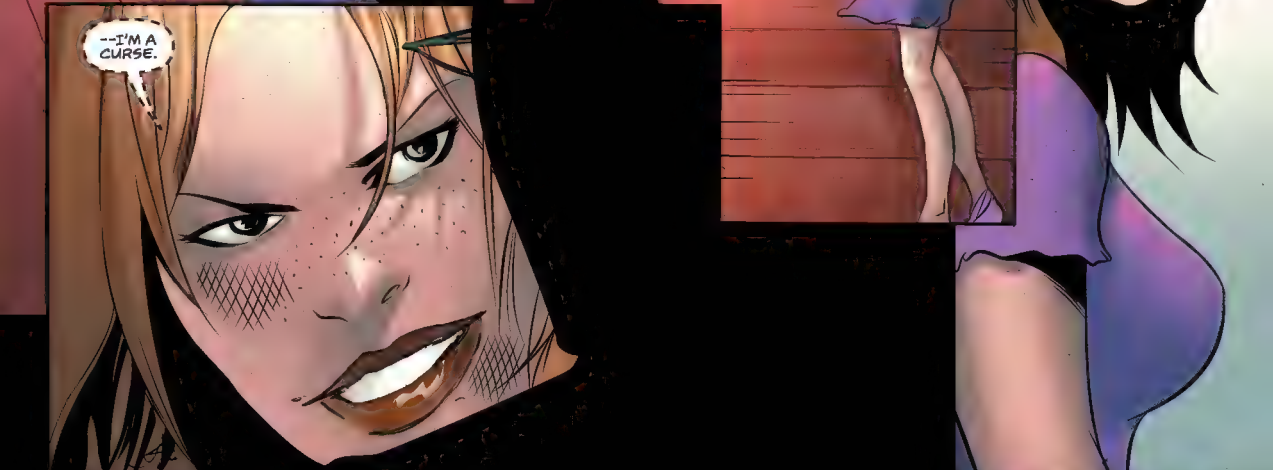
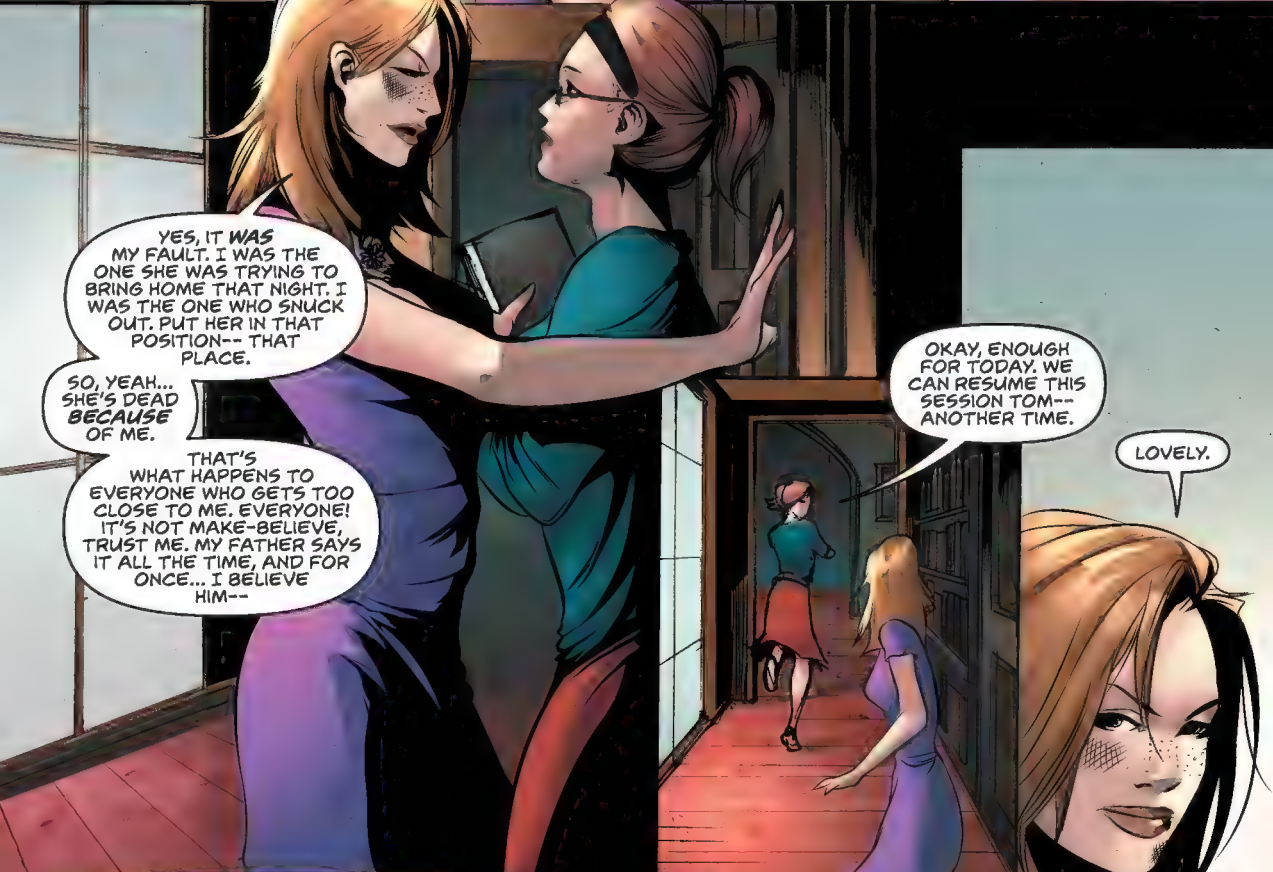
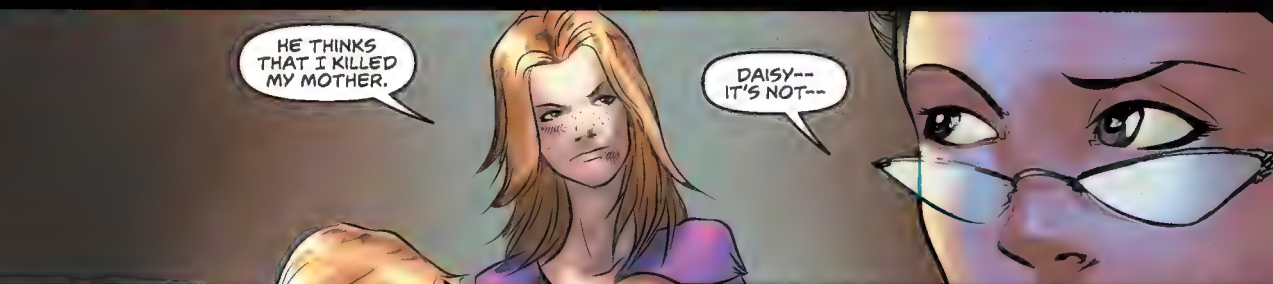
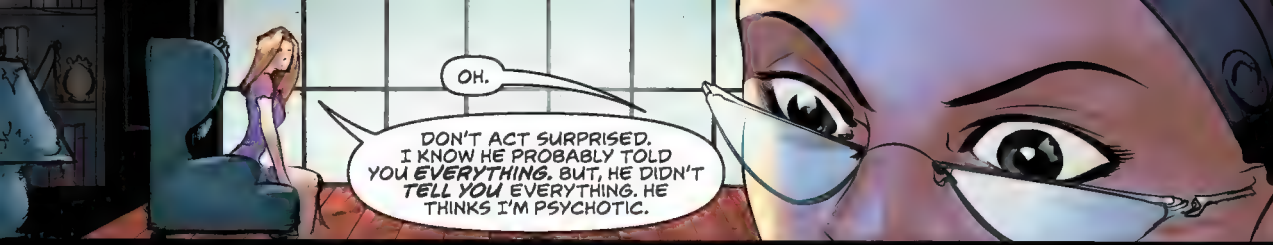
HE SAID
THAT, DID
HE?

IS THERE
SOMETHING I
SHOULD KNOW? IS
THAT NOT WHAT
HAPPENED?

I...

...YES...
I DID IT TO
MYSELF.







YOU KIDDING ME?

I'M MEETING YOU OUTTA KINDNESS, KID. YOU SHOW UP HERE, ASKING FOR TERMS LIKE SOME BIG SHOT. LIKE YOU GOT A STAKE IN THESE DOCKS, OR EVEN IN THIS COUNTRY. I RUN THE DOCK UNION, SON. WHICH MEANS I RUN EVERYTHING.

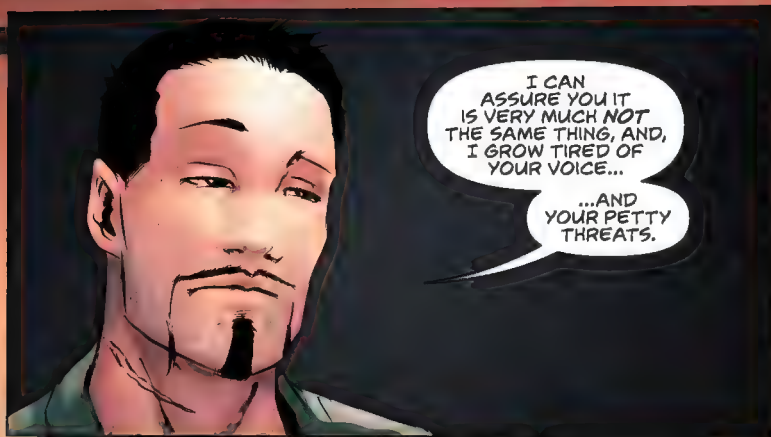
I MERELY ASK FOR THE SAME CHANCE YOU HAVE GIVEN TO OTHERS, TO OPERATE WITHOUT SCRUTINY. AND IN RETURN I WILL PAY THE SAME PERCENTAGE. I CONSIDER THIS A FAIR PROPOSAL.

YOU DON'T GET TO ASK ANYTHING, THAT'S MY POINT.

YOU FO&CKS, ALWAYS LOOKING TO TAKEOVER. FIRST, YOU BOMB PEARL HARBOR, AND THEN YOU THINK YOU CAN COME TO MY DOCK AND CALL THE SHOTS?!!?

THAT WAS THE JAPANESE. I AM FROM CHINA. DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

SAME FO&CKING DIFFERENCE!



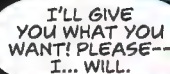
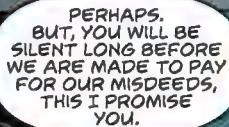
I CAN ASSURE YOU IT IS VERY MUCH NOT THE SAME THING, AND, I GROW TIRED OF YOUR VOICE...

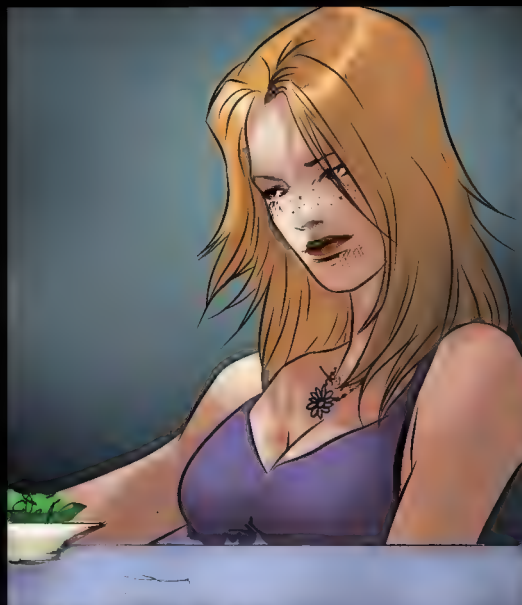
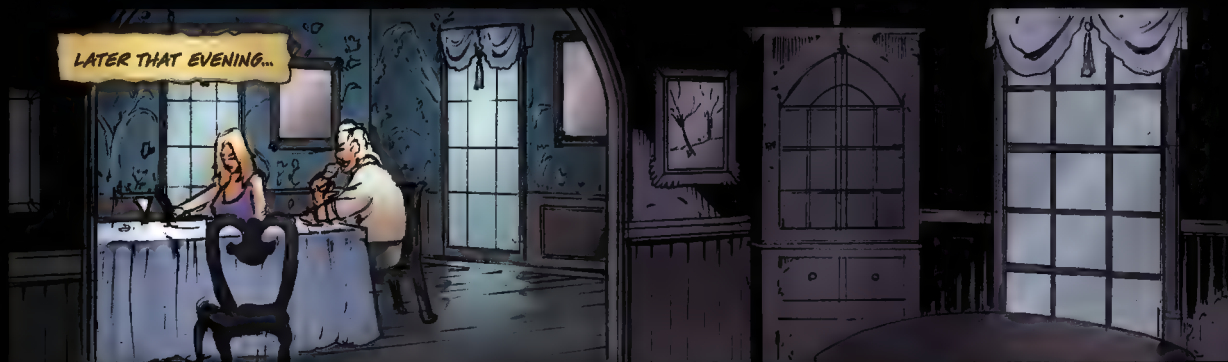
...AND YOUR PETTY THREATS.




GRAB HIM.


WHAT...?








AM I A
MIND-READER?
DO I KNOW WHAT
GOES ON IN THAT MIND
OF YOURS? NO I
DO NOT.



BUT, I AM YOUR
FATHER. YOU ARE MY
POSSESSION.

POSSESSION?

YES. YOU
BELONG TO
ME.




WHEN YOUR
MOTHER WAS MURDERED,
GOD BLESS HER SOUL, I DID
BLAME YOU FOR IT... BUT, I
HAVE COME TO LEARN THAT
IS NOT THE ENTIRE
TRUTH.

THE FAULT
IS MINE, AS
WELL.

MY FATHER,
WHEN I WAS A YOUNG
BOY-- WHEN I GOT OUT OF
LINE-- HE WOULD TEACH ME THE
ERROR OF MY WAYS. OFTEN-TIMES
IT WAS NOT PLEASANT, BUT THAT
IS WHAT IT TAKES WHEN WE
HAVE STRAYED FROM
OUR INTENDED PATH.

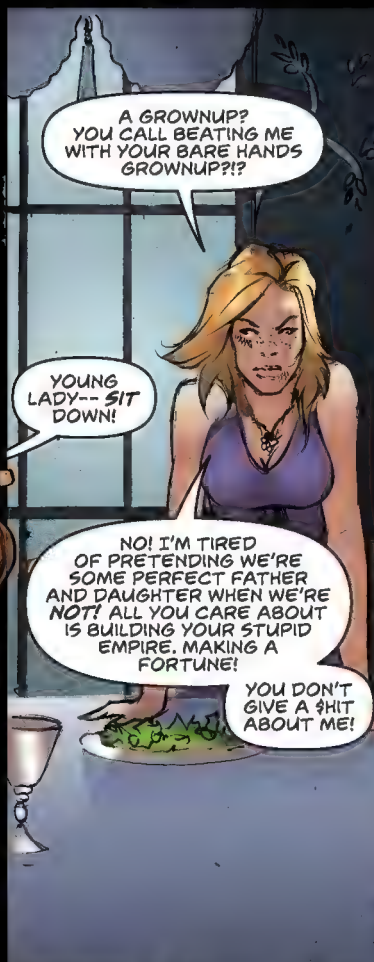
AND YOU
HAVE STRAYED FAR,
YOUNG LADY.



YES--
I'M THE ONE
OFF THE DEEP
END.



YOU SEE, THAT IS WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT RIGHT THERE. EVERY TIME I ATTEMPT TO SPEAK TO YOU LIKE A GROWNUP, YOU SHOW YOUR TRUE IMMATURITY.



A GROWNUP? YOU CALL BEATING ME WITH YOUR BARE HANDS GROWNUP?!?

YOUNG LADY-- SIT DOWN!

NO! I'M TIRED OF PRETENDING WE'RE SOME PERFECT FATHER AND DAUGHTER WHEN WE'RE NOT! ALL YOU CARE ABOUT IS BUILDING YOUR STUPID EMPIRE. MAKING A FORTUNE!

YOU DON'T GIVE A \$HIT ABOUT ME!



YOU WILL SIT DOWN, OR I WILL MAKE YOU SIT YOUNG LADY.



GO AHEAD-- KILL ME! I DON'T CARE ANYMORE! I'D RATHER BE DEAD THAN HAVE TO SPEND ANOTHER MOMENT WITH YOU!

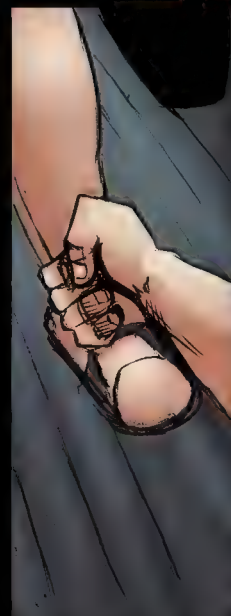


THAT IS IT...



...I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF YOUR \$HIT!

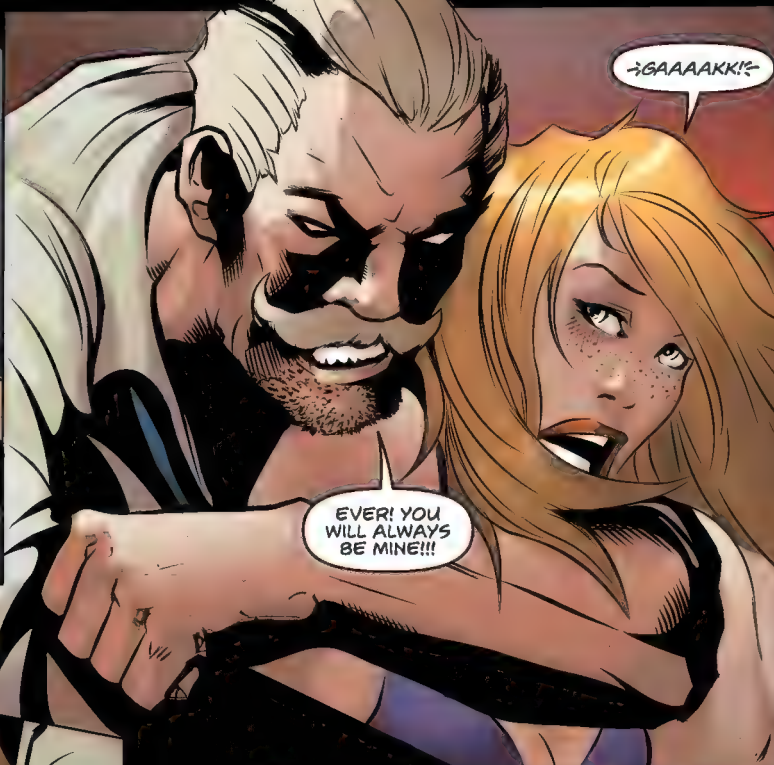
SLAM





YOU DO NOT GET TO RUN FROM ME!

WHAM



→GAAAAKK!←

EVER! YOU WILL ALWAYS BE MINE!!!



NNNNNNNGGGGGG!!

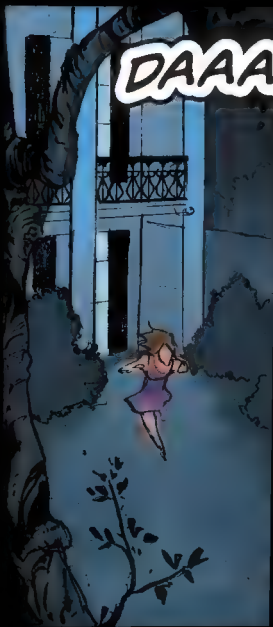


KRAACK

NO!



I HATE YOU!



DAAAAAAAISSSY!!!!





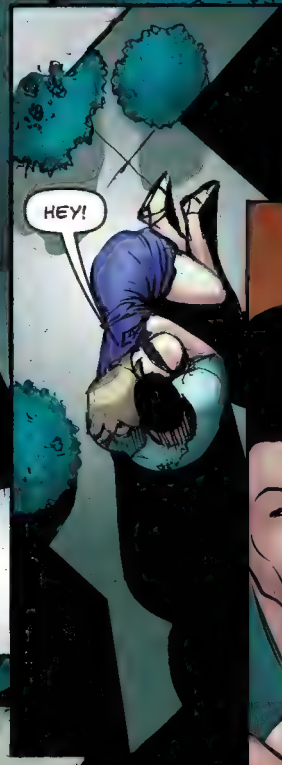




WHO...



...WHO ARE YOU...?



HEY!



HEY--
IT'S OKAY.
EVERYTHING IS
GOING TO BE
ALL RIGHT.

YOU'RE
IN GOOD
HANDS.

TO BE CONTINUED!
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSINS #13
DAISY PART 2 OF 4

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

**INTRODUCING
A BRAND NEW
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSIN!**

#13

DAISY PART 2 OF 4

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**ELIZABETH TORQUE
COVER B**

**LORI
"CROSS"
HANSON
COVER**

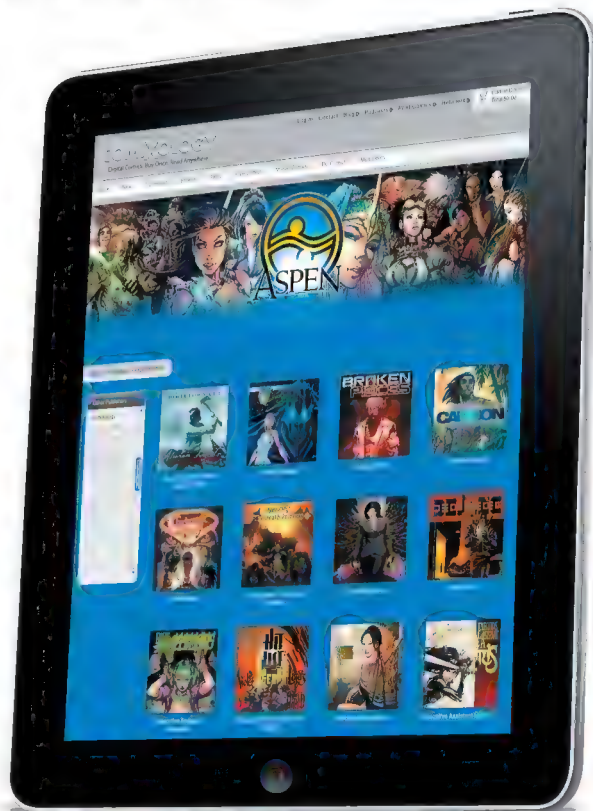
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#13

COVER A



*Cosy
West*





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Joe *KENNEDY*
Tendora *GONZALEZ*
Sara *REED*

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSIN

BLOCKADE
ENTERTAINMENT

#13

COVER B



TRUCKEE
12/03

The story is far from over. After a brutal encounter with her possessive and deadly father, Daisy managed to escape his wrath but was not able to escape her current state. Beaten, both physically and emotionally, the young girl finds refuge in the most unexpected place. Can she escape all the determined assassins and assassins?

WORTH THE ASSASSIN'S ASSASSIN

DAISY

PART 2 OF 4

WRITTEN BY VINCE HERNANDEZ

CHARACTER DESIGN BY LORI "CROSS" HANSON

DIGITAL INKS BY

JOE KENNEDY

EDITED BY

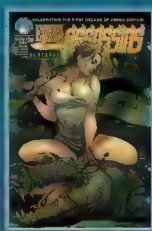
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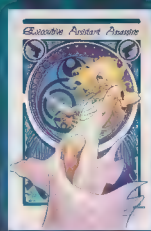
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PASQUALE QUALANO
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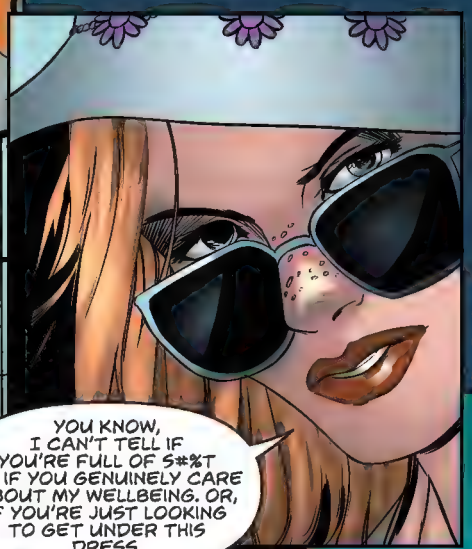


YOU'RE CLEARLY ENJOYING YOURSELF.

WHAT, A GIRL CAN'T ENJOY SHOPPING?



YOU MAY ENJOY ANYTHING YOU LIKE. I TAKE PLEASURE IN WATCHING YOUR ENJOYMENT.



YOU KNOW, I CAN'T TELL IF YOU'RE FULL OF S**T OR IF YOU GENUINELY CARE ABOUT MY WELLBEING. OR, IF YOU'RE JUST LOOKING TO GET UNDER THIS DRESS.

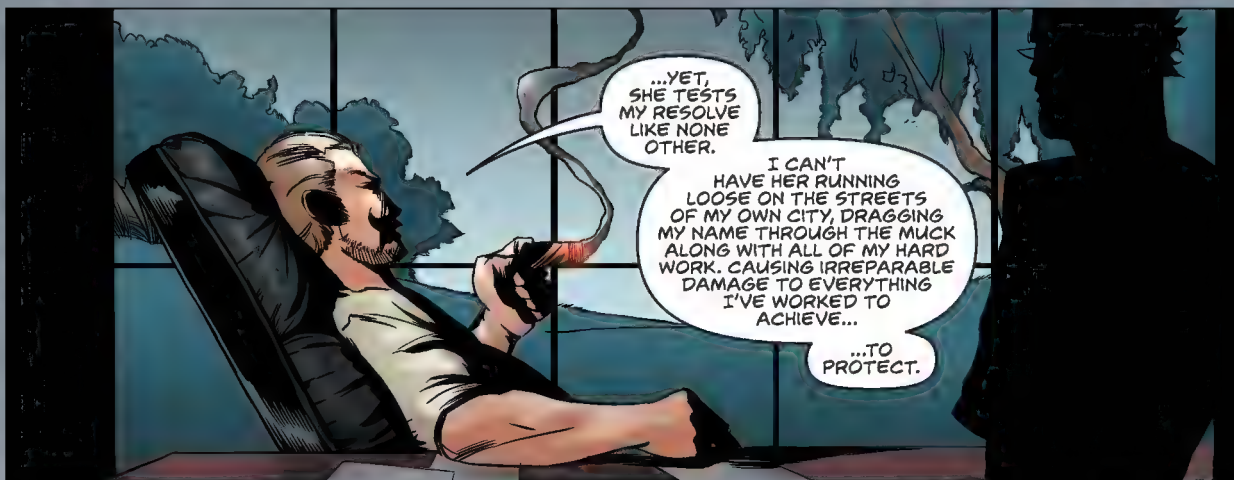


CAN'T A MAN ASPIRE TO ALL THREE?



HA!
THAT'S WHY I LOVE YOU.

"I LOVE THE GIRL..."



...YET,
SHE TESTS
MY RESOLVE
LIKE NONE
OTHER.

I CAN'T
HAVE HER RUNNING
LOOSE ON THE STREETS
OF MY OWN CITY, DRAGGING
MY NAME THROUGH THE MUCK
ALONG WITH ALL OF MY HARD
WORK. CAUSING IRREPARABLE
DAMAGE TO EVERYTHING
I'VE WORKED TO
ACHIEVE...

...TO
PROTECT.



NO...

...WE NEED
TO FIND DAISY.
PUT A STOP TO THIS
NONSENSE-- AND TEACH
HER A LESSON WHILE
DOING SO.



YES, BUT
SIR... IS THIS THE
RIGHT PLAY HERE? I
MEAN, OUTSOURCING TO
FOREIGN CLIENTS IS NOT
ADVISED. THINGS
COULD GET
MESSY.

SEE THAT IT'S
DONE. I WILL NOT HAVE MY
USUAL CHANNELS INVOLVED IN
MY CLOSE, PERSONAL AFFAIRS.
WE OUTSOURCE AND THEN WE
PUT OUT THE SOURCE-- DO
YOU UNDERSTAND,
PARSONS?

GRAVELY,
SIR.



YOU
THINK I'M A
FOOL, AM I
RIGHT?

YOU
LIE UNDER
THREAT OF
FEAR.

NOT
AT ALL,
SIR.

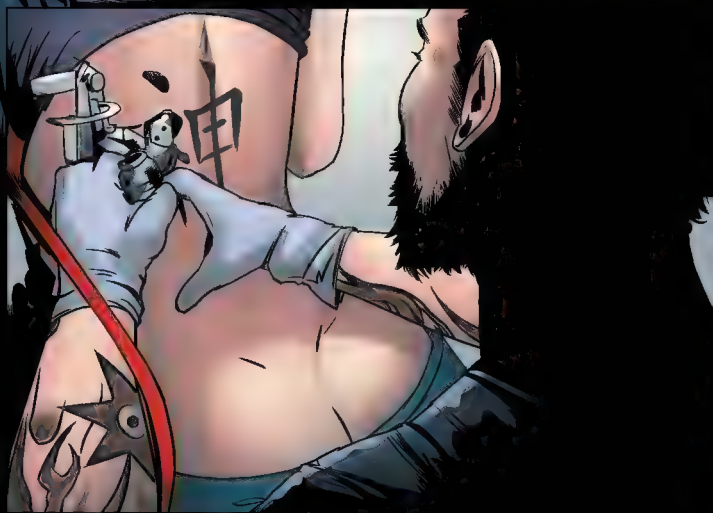
"I DON'T MIND
YOUR FEAR, TO BE
TRUTHFUL..."

"...I WELCOME IT."

"WHEN PEOPLE
FEAR YOU, THEY HONOR
YOU. AND IN TURN YOU CAN
CONTROL THEM. THAT IS
WHAT IS MISSING IN MY
DAUGHTER... CONTROL."

"FOR AS LONG AS SHE
HAS WALKED ON TWO
LEGS, DAISY HAD LET
ME GUIDE HER, AND
MOLD HER INTO THE
WOMAN I KNOW SHE
COULD BE-- SOMEONE
I COULD TAKE GREAT
PRIDE IN."

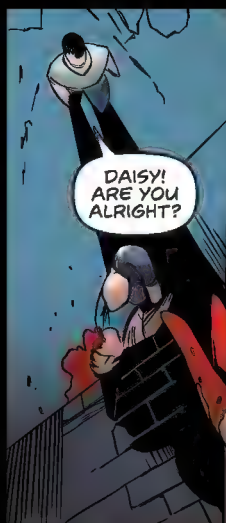
"YET, SOMEWHERE
A FRACTURE IN OUR
RELATIONSHIP BEGAN TO
FEETER... TO GROW INTO
SOMETHING MORE. I MUSE,
BUT I KNOW WHEN THAT
TIME CAME-- WHEN HER
MOTHER WAS TAKEN FROM
US, AND I REFUSE TO
LOSE DAISY AS WELL."



"OUR BOND
IS BROKEN."







THE NEXT DAY.

HOW MANY?

UNDERSTOOD. I WON'T LIE, THIS IS NOT PLEASING NEWS. YOU WILL HEAR FROM ME SOON.

THE CHINAMAN SHE IS WITH, HE TOOK OUT THE CLIENTS.

ONE MAN TOOK OUT ALL THREE?

APPARENTLY, THIS MAN IS QUITE THE ENTREPRENEUR-- AND ALSO HAS QUITE THE PAST FROM WHAT MY SOURCE TELLS ME. HE CAME HERE RECENTLY AND HAS MADE HIS PRESENCE KNOWN.

MAKE SURE THE SHIPMENT IS COUNTED AND DIVIDED BEFORE SUNDOWN.

CHINA

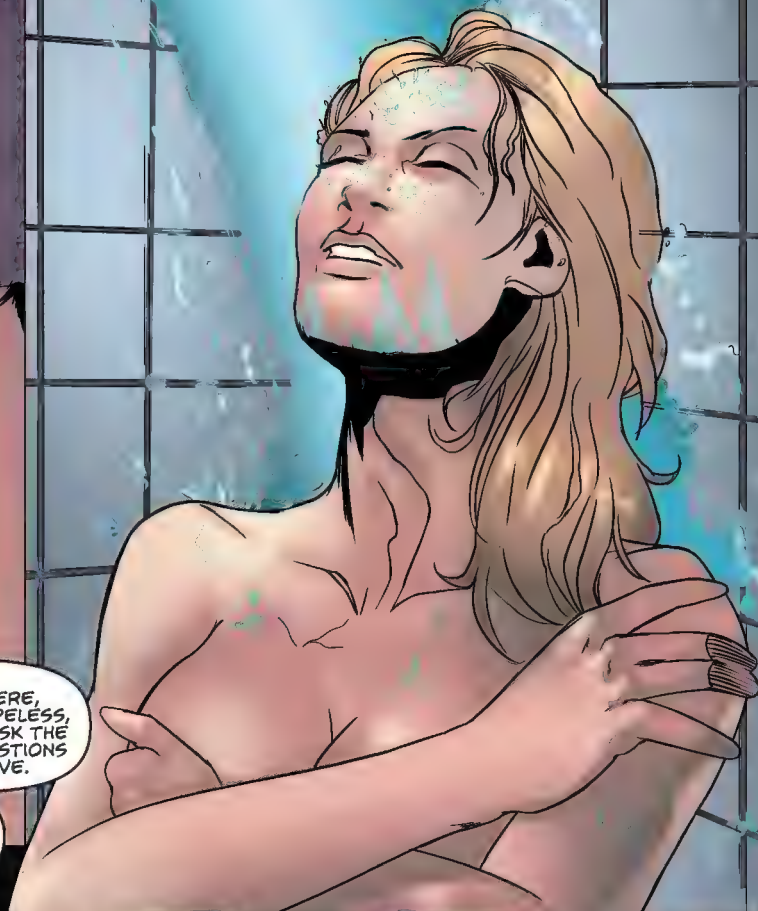
AND FIND OUT EVERYTHING ABOUT THIS SHEN.

SOB
SOB

DAISY...
WE NEED TO
TALK.

WHEN I
FOUND YOU HERE,
BEATEN AND HOPELESS,
I REFUSED TO ASK THE
IMPORTANT QUESTIONS
I SHOULD HAVE.

BUT, IF WE ARE
GOING TO BE TOGETHER,
WE MUST BE COMPLETELY
HONEST WITH EACH
OTHER.

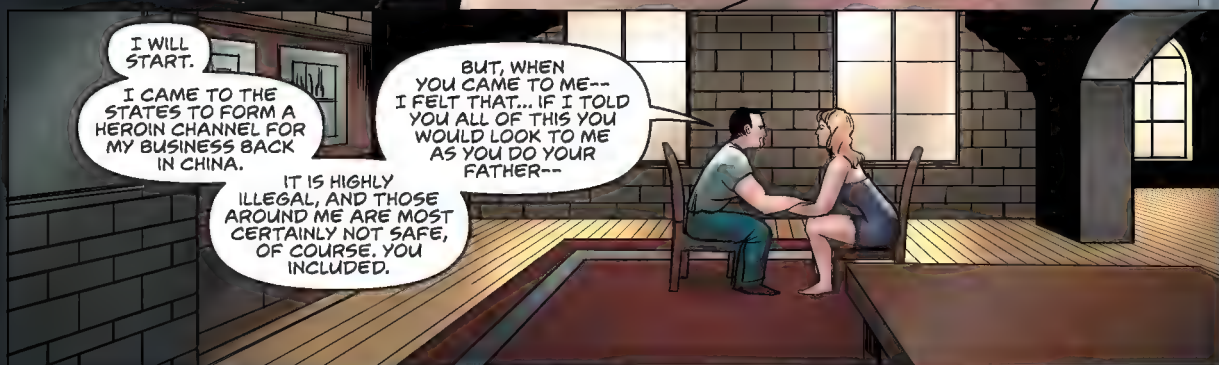


I WILL
START.

I CAME TO THE
STATES TO FORM A
HEROIN CHANNEL FOR
MY BUSINESS BACK
IN CHINA.

IT IS HIGHLY
ILLEGAL, AND THOSE
AROUND ME ARE MOST
CERTAINLY NOT SAFE,
OF COURSE, YOU
INCLUDED.

BUT, WHEN
YOU CAME TO ME--
I FELT THAT... IF I TOLD
YOU ALL OF THIS YOU
WOULD LOOK TO ME
AS YOU DO YOUR
FATHER--

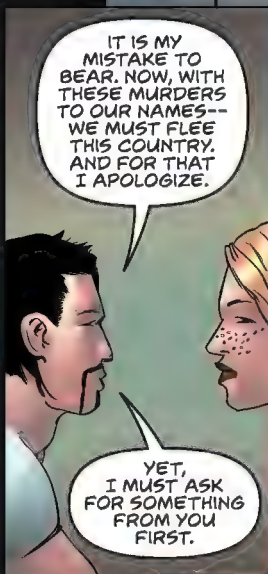


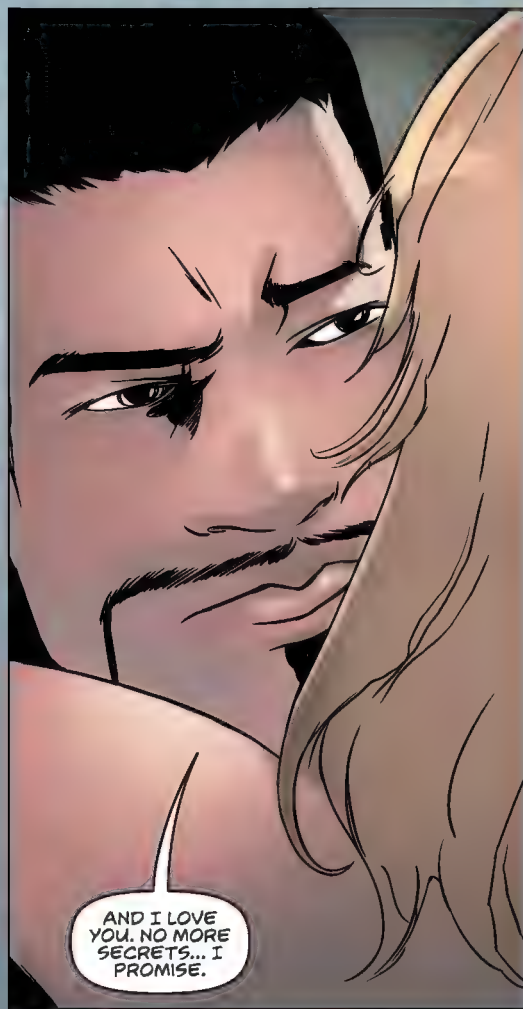
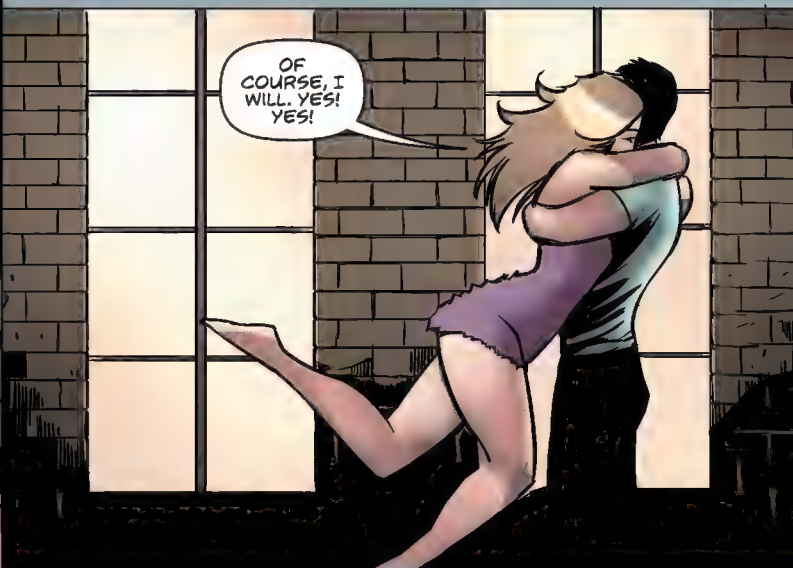
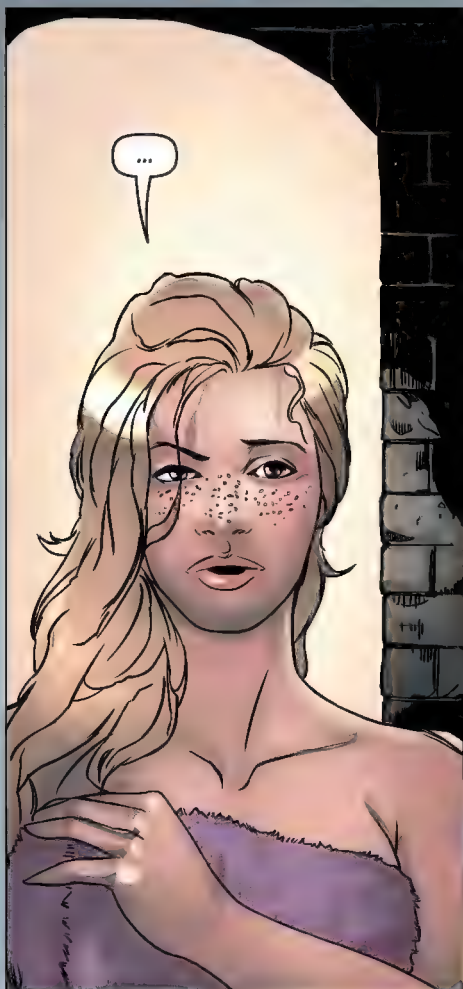
--AND
I COULD NOT
RISK THAT. SO, I
KEPT IT FROM
YOU.

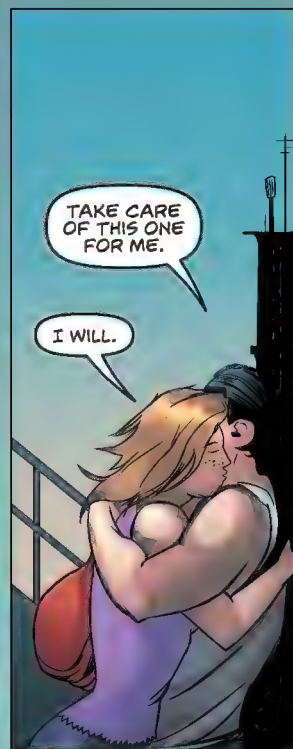
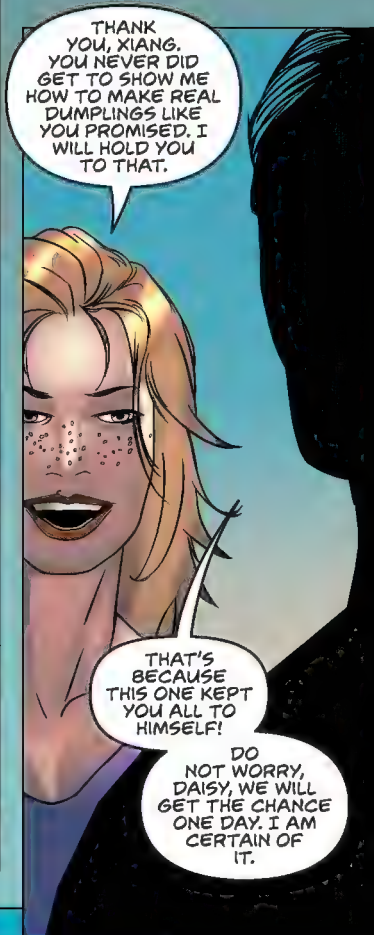
IT IS MY
MISTAKE TO
BEAR. NOW, WITH
THESE MURDERS
TO OUR NAMES--
WE MUST FLEE
THIS COUNTRY.
AND FOR THAT
I APOLOGIZE.

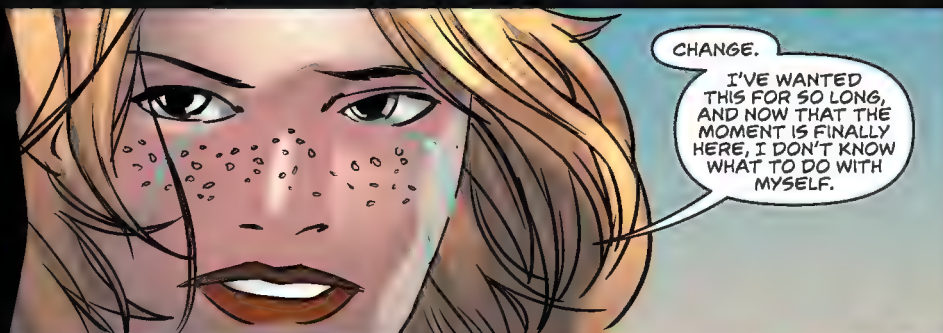
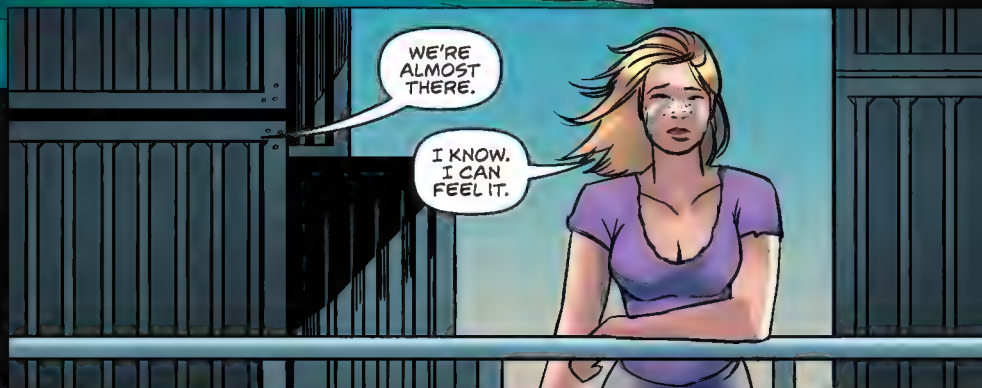
YET,
I MUST ASK
FOR SOMETHING
FROM YOU
FIRST.

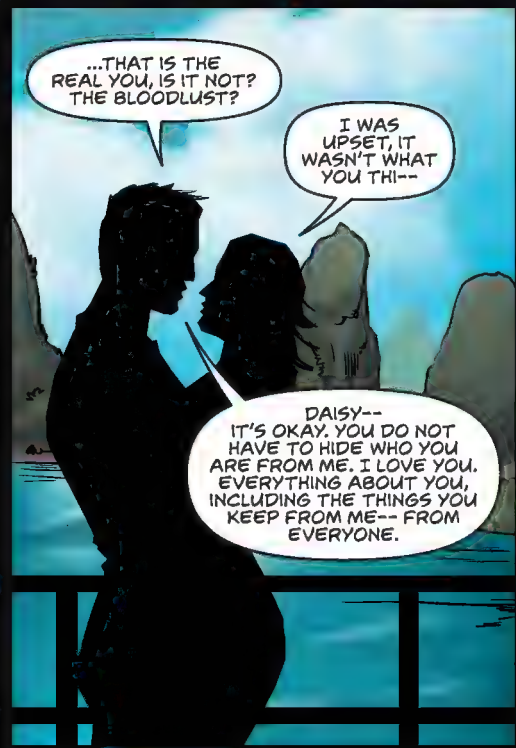
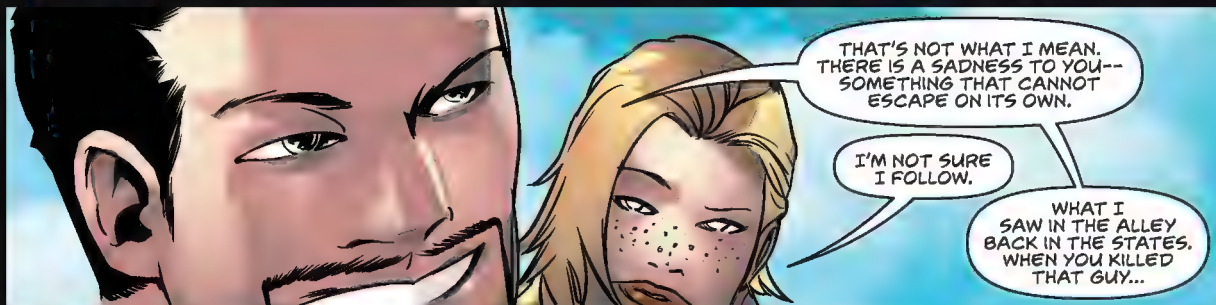
WILL
YOU... MARRY
ME?











THE VILLAGE OF
BAISHUITAI.

IT'S BEAUTIFUL
OUT HERE.

THIS IS
WHERE I GREW
UP. WHERE I CALLED
HOME FOR A
TIME.

I WONDER
WHAT YOU WERE
LIKE AS A CHILD.
PROBABLY CUTE
AS A BUTTON.

I'VE NOT HEARD
THAT EXPRESSION
BEFORE. BUT, I WILL
GLADLY ACCEPT IT. NO,
UNFORTUNATELY MY
CHILDHOOD WAS
ANYTHING BUT
CUTE.

"MY MOTHER AND FATHER
PERISHED WHEN THIS VILLAGE'S POOR
AND FAMISHED REBELLED AGAINST
THE LOCAL WARLORD AT THE TIME,
MENG YAO. HE SLAUGHTERED ANYONE
WHO OPPOSED HIM-- INCLUDING
MY KIN."

"I WAS SUPPOSED
TO BE MURDERED AS
THEY WERE, YET ONE OF
MENG YAO'S UNDERLINGS,
A MAN NAMED WEI, CHOSE
TO ALLOW ME TO LIVE...
FOR HIS OWN REASONS."

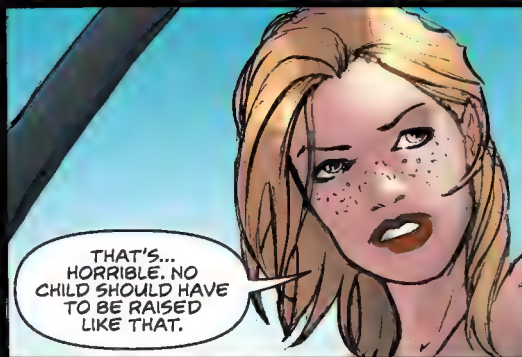
"HE TAUGHT
ME THE MEANING
OF HARD WORK, HOW
TO SURVIVE ON
MY OWN..."

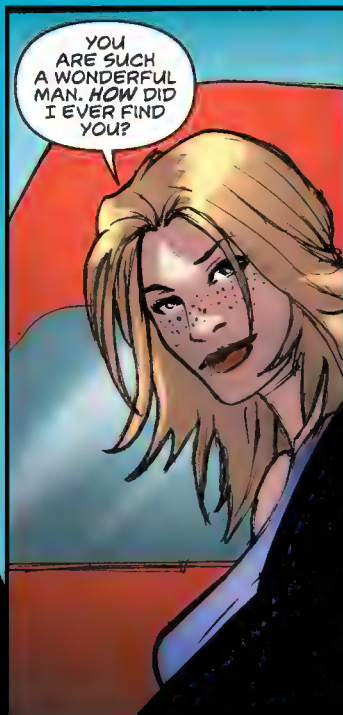
"...AND
ALSO ABOUT
LOYALTY."

HE BRUTALLY TOOK
MENG YAO'S PLACE
AS THE WARLORD
OF OUR VILLAGE...

"...YET, HE BOUND
ME TO HIS ACTIONS THROUGH MY
OWN. I HAD TO SPILL BLOOD TOO.
IT WAS MY DESTINY. CUNNING HE
WAS, INDEED."

YES, HE
TAUGHT ME
MUCH OF THE
REALITIES OF
LIFE.



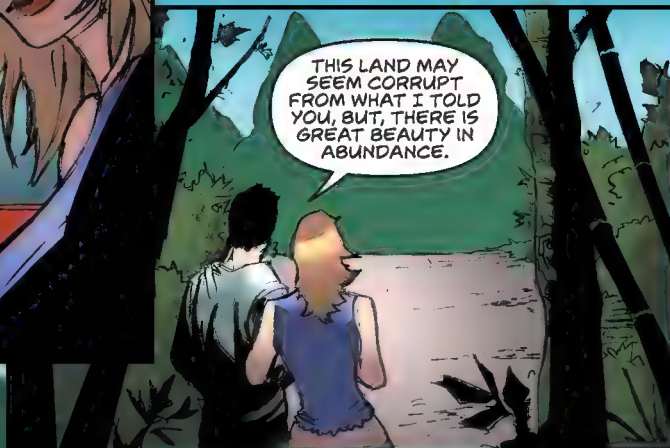


YOU ARE SUCH A WONDERFUL MAN. HOW DID I EVER FIND YOU?

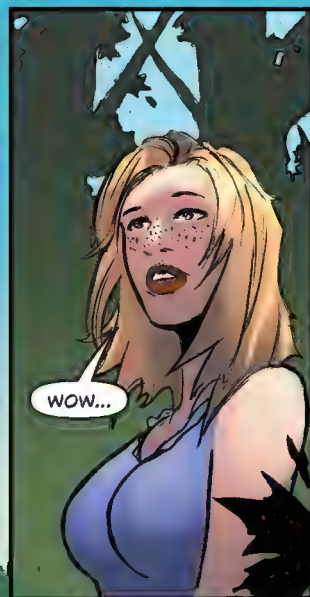


I'M CERTAIN IT WAS FATE THAT BROUGHT YOU TO ME.

HERE, I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING.



THIS LAND MAY SEEM CORRUPT FROM WHAT I TOLD YOU, BUT, THERE IS GREAT BEAUTY IN ABUNDANCE.



WOW...



THE MINERAL TERRACES.

IT'S SO PRETTY.



THANK YOU FOR BRINGING ME HERE.

DO NOT THANK ME UNTIL YOU'VE SEEN EVERYTHING.



THE LINE IS SAFE. ALL THE ESSENTIALS HAVE BEEN POSTED TO THE SECURE MESSAGE BOARD. HER PHOTO IS INCLUDED...



...SHE WILL NOT BE HARD TO SPOT.




UNDERSTOOD. THAT SUM WILL NOT BE A PROBLEM. AN INCENTIVE BONUS WILL BE ADDED IF THE ONE KNOWN AS "SHEN" IS TAKEN CARE OF, AS WELL. HIS PARTNER XIANG HAS UPLOADED HIS PHOTO.

DEAD OR ALIVE-- IT DOESN'T MATTER.



YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE, CORRECT?



IT WILL
NOT BE A
PROBLEM.

MAKE
SURE THE
CURRENCY IS
THERE WHEN I
CHECK, IT WILL
NOT TAKE
LONG.



IS EVERYTHING HERE
SO BEAUTIFUL?

THIS... IS A
DIFFERENT KIND
OF BEAUTY.

WHAT IS THIS
PLACE?



DAISY... DO
YOU REMEMBER
WHAT I TOLD YOU
ON THE BOAT?

THAT I WOULD
DO EVERYTHING
IN MY POWER TO
SHOW YOU WHAT
A LIFE WITHOUT
FEAR COULD BE
LIKE?

OF COURSE.



WELL,
THIS PLACE IS THE
BEGINNING OF THAT
JOURNEY.

WHAT...
DO YOU
MEAN?



DO YOU
TRUST ME,
DAISY?



YOU
KNOW I
DO.

THEN TAKE
MY HAND, ALLOW
ME TO HELP FREE YOUR
CONSCIENCE FROM YOUR
PAST. IN HERE, YOU WILL
LEARN TO BE SOMETHING
FAR GREATER THAN
ANY WOMAN...



WELCOME,
SHEN. IT HAS BEEN
TOO LONG. THE VILLAGE
MISSES YOUR GUIDANCE.
AND YOU MUST BE DAISY.
IT PLEASES ME TO NO END
THAT YOU ARE ALREADY
APTLY NAMED...

...THE
ACADEMY HAS
BEEN EXPECTING
YOU.



From the Creators that brought you Witchblade & Faithful. David Wohl (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and Michael Turner (Faithful)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT ASSASSINS

#14

DAISY PART 3 OF 4

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Ongoing Series Continues
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PENCILS BY: LORI "CROSS" HANSON
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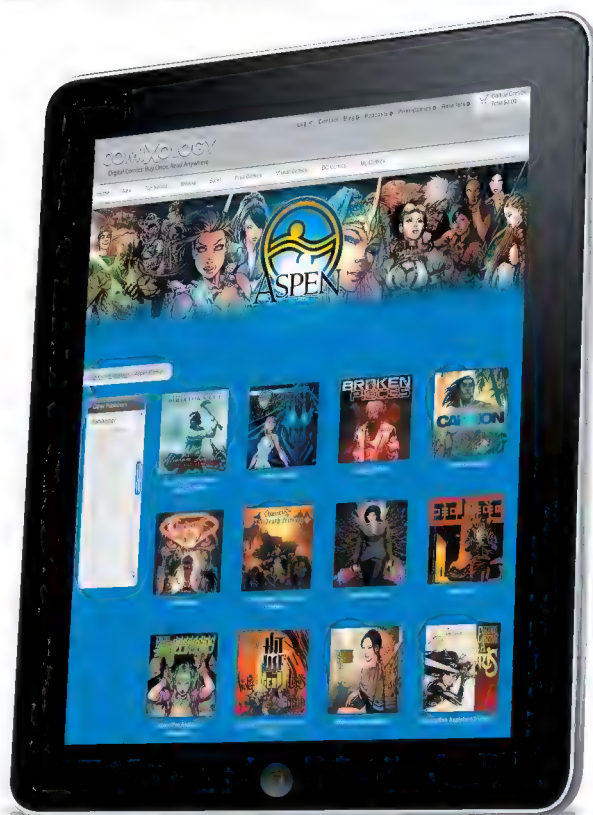
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14

COVER A



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HERNANDEZ
LORI HANSON
JOE FANELLI
ANDRÉS GONZÁLEZ
AND ALB

EXECUTIVE
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ASSASSINS

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#14

COVER B



The story is far...
 Daisy learns that escaping her father's very large shadow is easier said than done. As Shri and her manage to fight off his hired henchmen but killed them in the process, looking to get out of sight, the two find themselves in Shri's homeland. As time passes, the biggest change for Daisy is the loss of her life, in the form of her arrival as the daughter of an Assassin's Assistant.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSIN

DAISY

PART 3 OF 4

WRITTEN BY
VINCE HERNANDEZ

CHARACTER DESIGN
LORI "CROSS" HANSON

COVER ART BY

JOE KENNEDY

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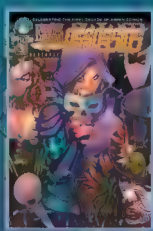
TEODORO GONZALEZ

LETTERING

JOSH REED



A DIRECT EDITION
 LORI HANSON
 TEODORO GONZALEZ



B DIRECT EDITION
 ELIZABETH TORQUE



C RETAILER INCENTIVE
 ASSASSIN'S EDITION
 PASQUALE QUALANO
 TEODORO GONZALEZ

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ONE MONTH AGO.

YOU MADE A CALL TO US, SAID YOU HAD INFORMATION.

YOU WOULD BETRAY YOUR ALLIES SO EASILY?

COUGH COUGH

THE SAD TRUTH IS I DIDN'T NEED TO BEAT YOU WITHIN AN INCH OF YOUR LIFE-- I ALREADY KNOW WHERE THEY WENT. SHEN HAS ALWAYS BEEN NOTHING IF NOT PREDICTABLE.

I TOO, AM FAIRLY PREDICTABLE.

I HAVE MY WAYS. MANY OF MY PEERS PREFER TO USE THE SWORD. TO SLICE OFF A MAN'S LIMBS WITH ONE BLOW IS SAID TO BE HONORABLE.

NNNGH... PLEASE!

I AM NO MAN OF HONOR.

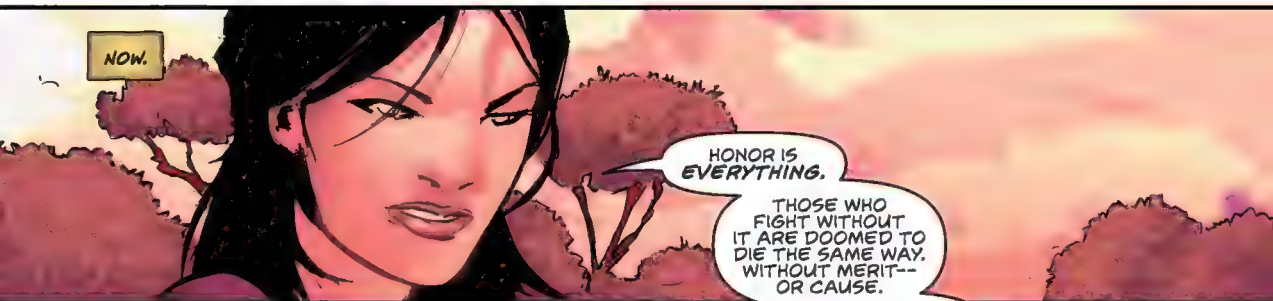
MY PREFERENCE IS TO TAKE MY TIME. PRECISION IS OF NO IMPORTANCE TO ME.

NOO--

AFTER ALL-- I ALWAYS SAY...

GAGGG!

...HONOR IS FOR THOSE DESTINED TO FAIL.

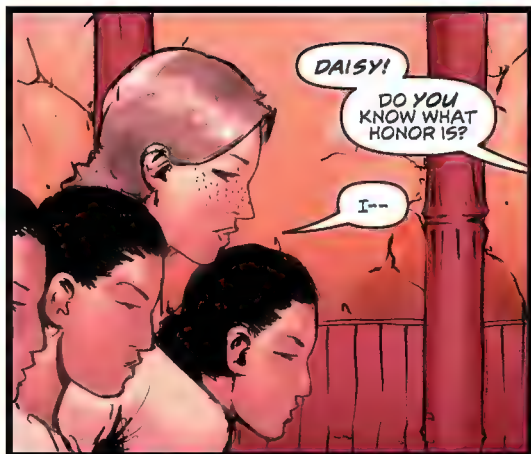


NOW.

HONOR IS
EVERYTHING.

THOSE WHO
FIGHT WITHOUT
IT ARE DOOMED TO
DIE THE SAME WAY.
WITHOUT MERIT--
OR CAUSE.

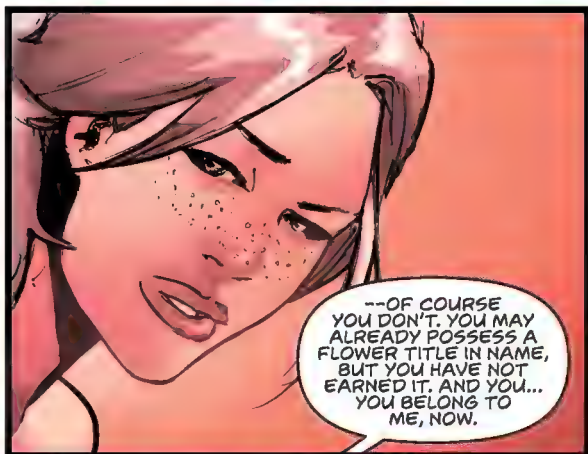
TODAY,
YOU TAKE
THE FIRST STEP
IN YOUR JOURNEY
TO BECOME
SOMETHING
MORE.



DAISY!

DO YOU
KNOW WHAT
HONOR IS?

I--



--OF COURSE
YOU DON'T. YOU MAY
ALREADY POSSESS A
FLOWER TITLE IN NAME,
BUT YOU HAVE NOT
EARNED IT. AND YOU...
YOU BELONG TO
ME, NOW.



ALL OF
YOU! ON YOUR
KNEES!

DAISY
IS A FOREIGNER.
SHE IS ALSO MISERABLY
PAST THE PROPER AGE
OF DEVELOPMENT. IN THIS
RESPECT, WE SHALL
HAVE TO BRING HER
UP TO SPEED.

SHE
WILL PLAY THE
ROLE OF OUR
ENEMY.



THAT IS WHEN I
KNEW THIS WAS
GOING TO BE A
NIGHTMARE

I'M USED TO BEING DRAGGED THROUGH THE MUD. IT'S ACTUALLY NOTHING NEW FOR ME. BEEN THAT WAY MY WHOLE LIFE. BUT NOT LITERALLY.

NERINE COULD NOT HIDE HER DISAPPOINTMENT IN ME

NOW!

AGAIN!

AGAIN!

THUNK

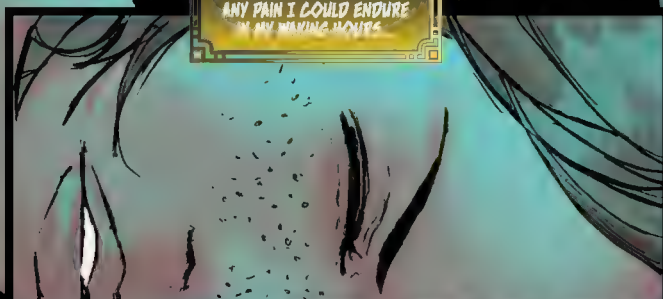
AGAIN!

OR HER ENTHUSIASM

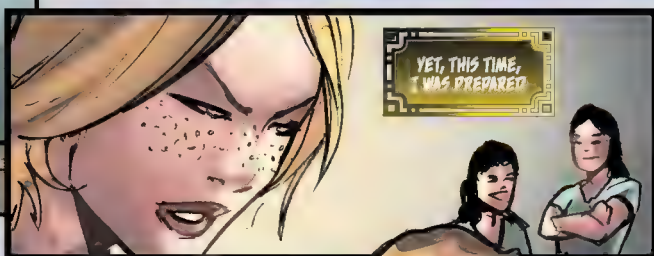
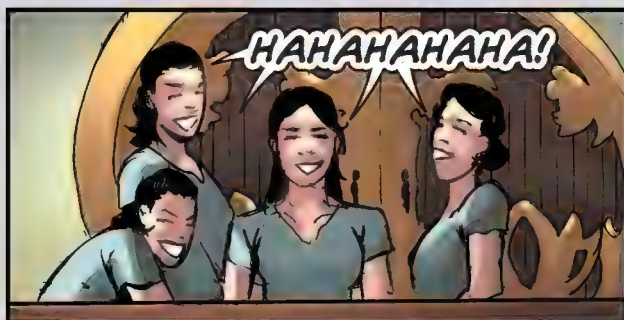
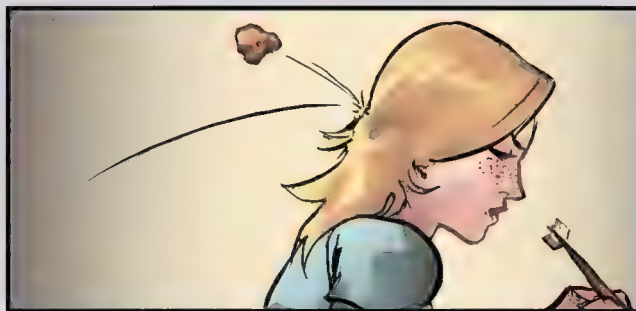
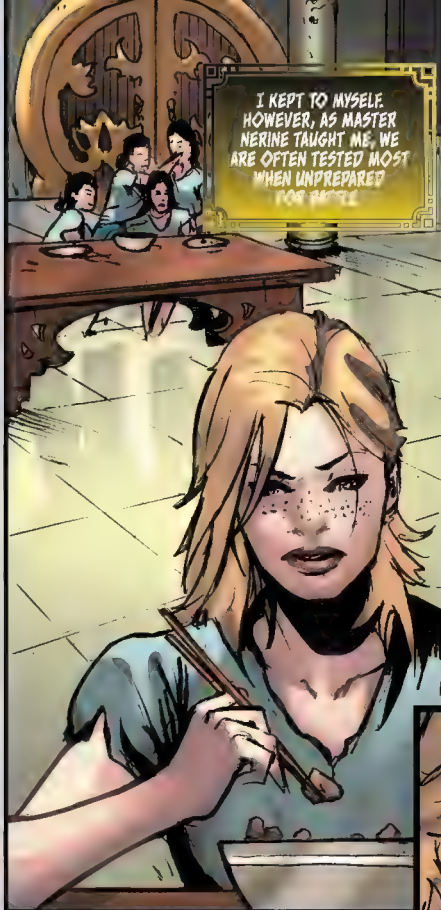
THEY BROKE ME.



MY OWN THOUGHTS ALWAYS
FRIGHTENING ME MORE THAN
ANY PAIN I COULD ENDURE
IN MY WAKING HOURS.





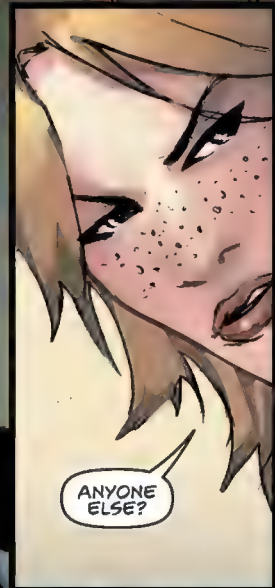




I LEARNED
MY FIRST VALUABLE
LESSON THAT DAY

PASSION CAN
YIELD RESULTS

I DIDN'T
HAVE TO HIDE
WHO I TRULY
AM



ANYONE
ELSE?



TAKE
HER TO THE
HOLE!



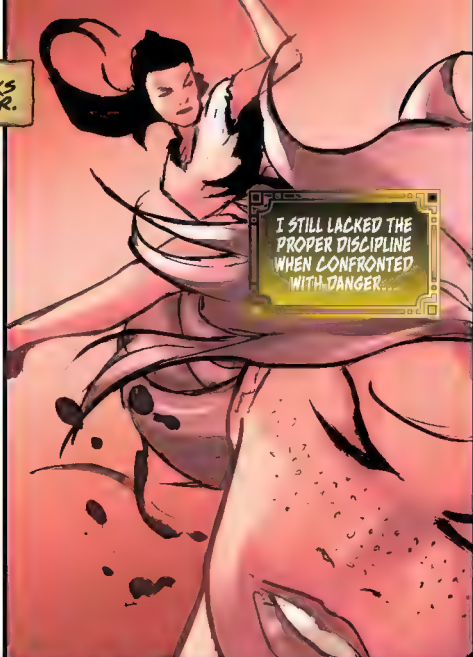
I COULD USE IT
TO MY ADVANTAGE

THAT IS WHEN MY
ASCENT BEGAN



...IN THE
DARKNESS
BELOW

WEEKS
LATER.



I STILL LACKED THE
PROPER DISCIPLINE
WHEN CONFRONTED
WITH DANGER...

...BUT, I MADE UP FOR IT
IN OTHER WAYS, BY CHANNELING
MY DARKEST THOUGHTS INTO MY
ACTIONS-- I WAS UNSTOPPABLE.



I WAS AT PEACE.



IN TIME, MY SKILL CAUGHT UP TO
MY RAGE. THE "ENEMY" HAD NOW
BECOME SOMETHING... MORE.

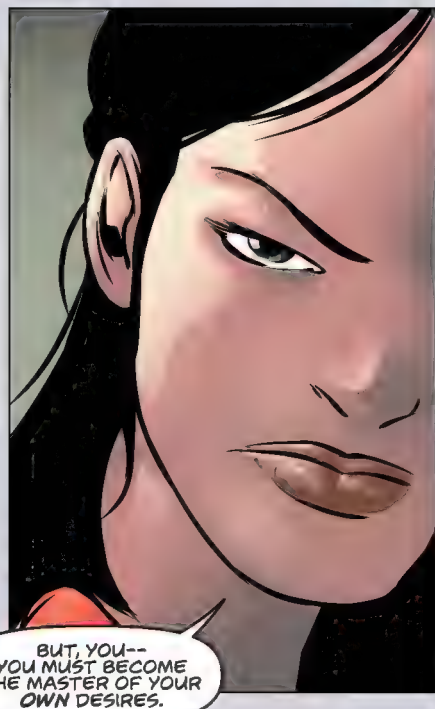
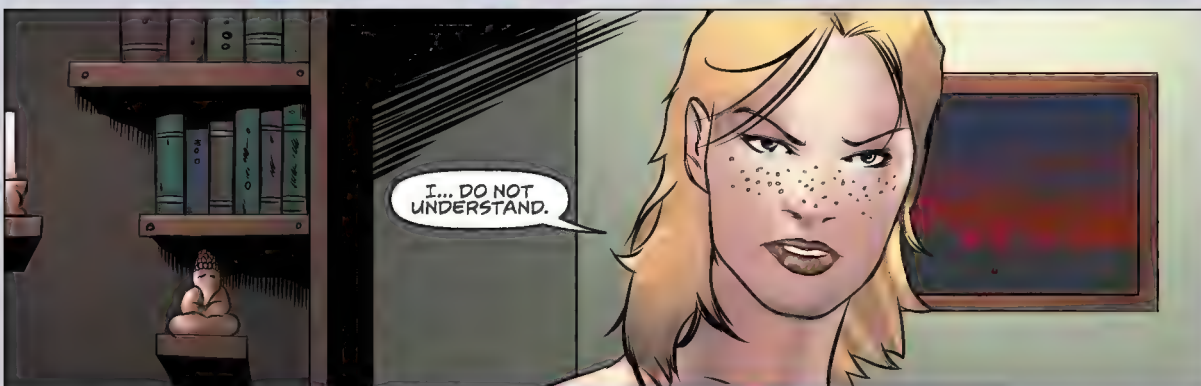
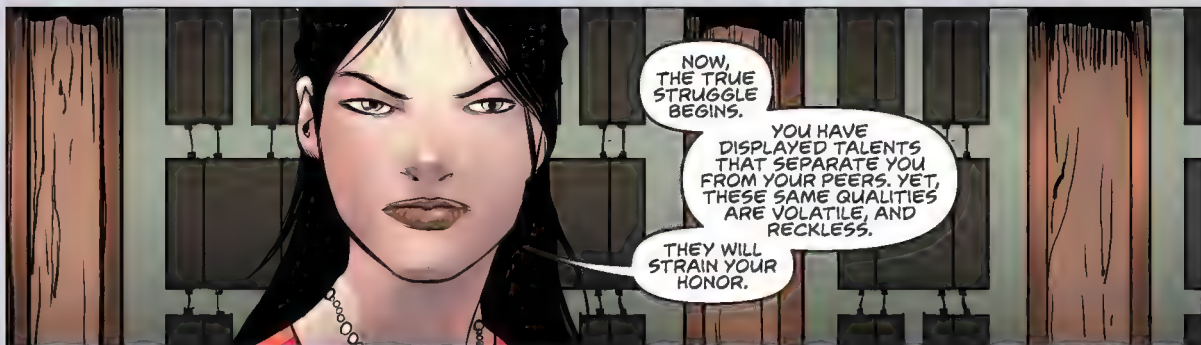
WELL DONE,
DAISY.




THE GIRLS HATED ME.
NOTHING NEW. HATE
BECAME MY FUEL.




MY SALVATION.





AFTER THAT,
THE REST IS HISTORY.
I GRADUATED. HERE
I AM.

THANK YOU
FOR TELLING
ME. I KNOW IT
IS DIFFICULT
FOR YOU.



YOU COULD
HAVE LEFT AT
ANY TIME, YOU KNOW?
NERINE HAD STRICT
ORDERS TO RELEASE
YOU IF YOU HAD
WANTED IT.

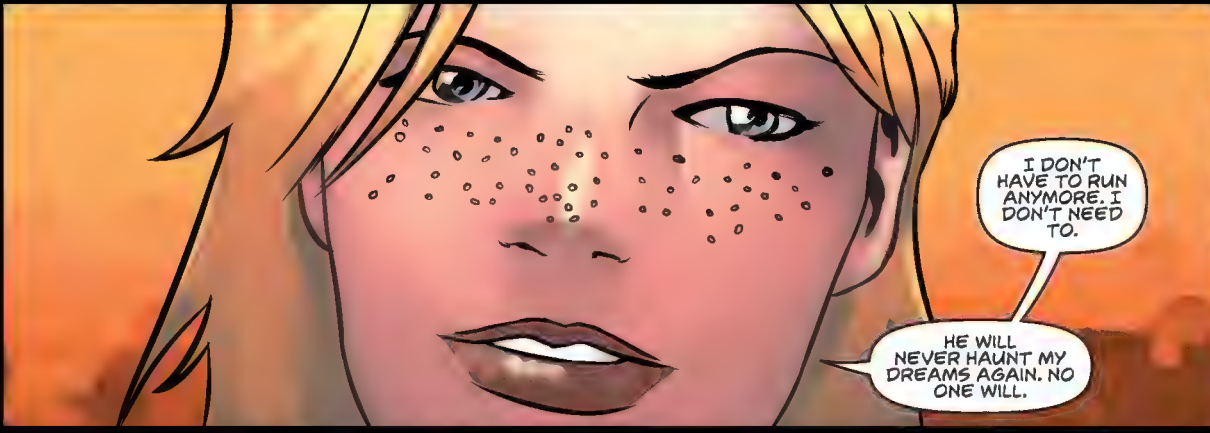


IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



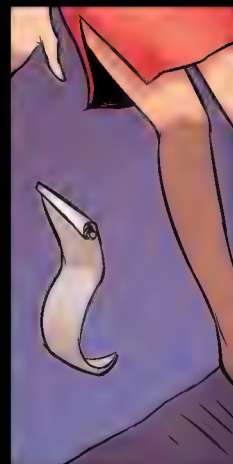
WHAT YOU
DID FOR ME--
WHAT YOU DID
TO ME...

...IT
OPENED MY
EYES.



I DON'T
HAVE TO RUN
ANYMORE. I
DON'T NEED
TO.

HE WILL
NEVER HAUNT MY
DREAMS AGAIN. NO
ONE WILL.





--I AM READY
FOR THE CHALLENGE,
HEADMASTER.

THEY
WERE... JUST
GIRLS.

INDEED. YET,
AM I THE ONE
RESPONSIBLE FOR
PLACING THEM IN HARM'S
WAY? AM I THE ONE WHO
ROBBED THEM OF THEIR
FREEDOM TO CHOOSE
TO DIE BY THEIR OWN
CHOICE?

THEY
WERE NOT
SLAVES!

YET, THEY
DIED AS SO? DID
THEY NOT?

YOU MAY
JUDGE ME IMMORAL.
MANY HAVE, BUT, I BALK
AT YOUR SILLY FACADE
OF WHAT YOU DEEM
AS PRINCIPLES.

NOW YOU
WILL **DIE** FOR
YOURS.

...WHY?

YOU KNOW
WHY. YOU TOOK HER
IN. YOU ALLOWED HER TO
BLOOM. A FOOLISH DECISION.
BUT, SHE IS NOT YOURS, OR
SHEN'S PROPERTY. SHE
IS SPOKEN FOR.

AS ARE
YOU...





I THOUGHT
YOU PREACHED
"HONOR?"

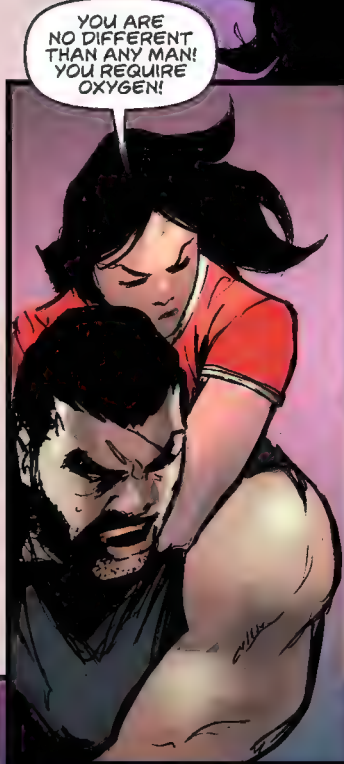
KRAK

UNNGHH!

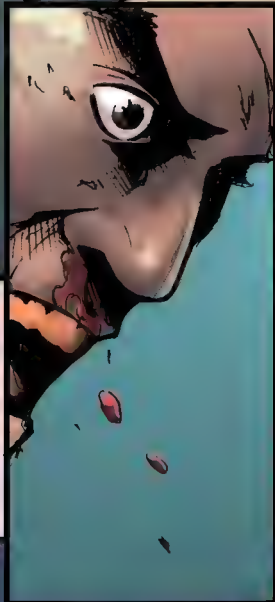


NOT FOR
YOU!

THUNK



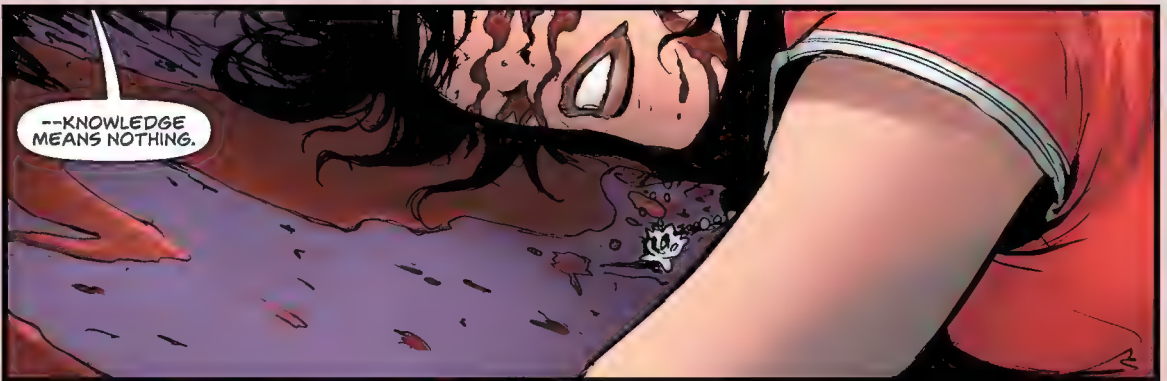
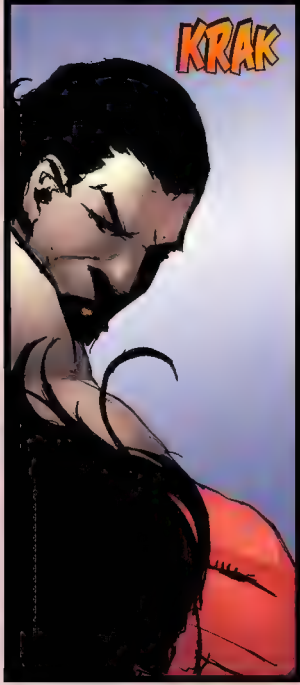
YOU ARE
NO DIFFERENT
THAN ANY MAN!
YOU REQUIRE
OXYGEN!



AND YOU...
HNG... ARE NO
DIFFERENT THAN
ANY WOMAN--



SMASH



BAISHUTAI MARKET.

I REGRET
YOUR AGGRESSIVE
STANCE IN NEGOTIATING
WITH ME YI, I DID NOT COME
LOOKING FOR HOSTILITIES. I
WANTED TO DISCUSS WAYS
TO WORK IN PARALLEL.
AMICABLY.

YOU SHOULD REGRET
YOUR ENTIRE PRESENCE
HERE, SHEN, THE CITY NO
LONGER ANSWERS TO
YOUR CORRUPTION.

AND NOW
THEY ANSWER
TO YOURS?

THEY ANSWER
TO THEIR BANK
ACCOUNTS.

YOU SHOULD
KNOW THIS BETTER
THAN ANYONE.

TAKE HIM.

YES,
PLEASE
DO.

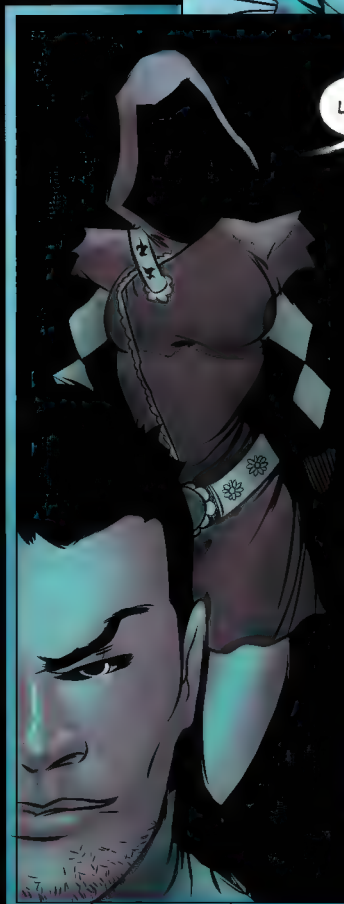


HRAA!

YOU SHOULD
LEARN TO PROTECT
YOUR REAR.

HNNH?

HNNNNNH!



IT JUST
COST YOUR
LIFE.



YOU LOSE
FOCUS EASILY,
AMATEURS.

SHIIING



YAAA!



THIS LAND
BELONGS TO
SHEN. IT ALWAYS HAS.
IT IS OURS NOW...
UNDERSTOOD?

YOU CAN'T
SPEAK. YOUR
THROAT MUSCLES
ARE CONTRACTING IN
COMPENSATION. SO
I'LL TAKE THAT
AS A YES.



DAISY!



BEHIND YOU!



ALL THIS
CONFLICT AND
NONE OF YOU EVER
THINK TO BRING
A MODERN
WEAPON?





YOUR
VACATION IS
OVER, DAISY. YOUR
FATHER AWAITS
YOU.



TO BE CONCLUDED!
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
ASSASSINS #15
DAISY PART 4 OF 4

From the Creators that brought you **Witchblade** & **Fathom**: **David Wohl** (Witchblade, Aphrodite IX) and **Michael Turner** (Fathom, Soulfire)

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

ASSASSINS

#15

DAISY

PART 4 OF 4

***The Daisy Story Arc
Comes to its Gripping
Conclusion!***

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: LORI HANSON
INKS BY: JOHN ERCEK
COLORS: TEODORO GONZALEZ



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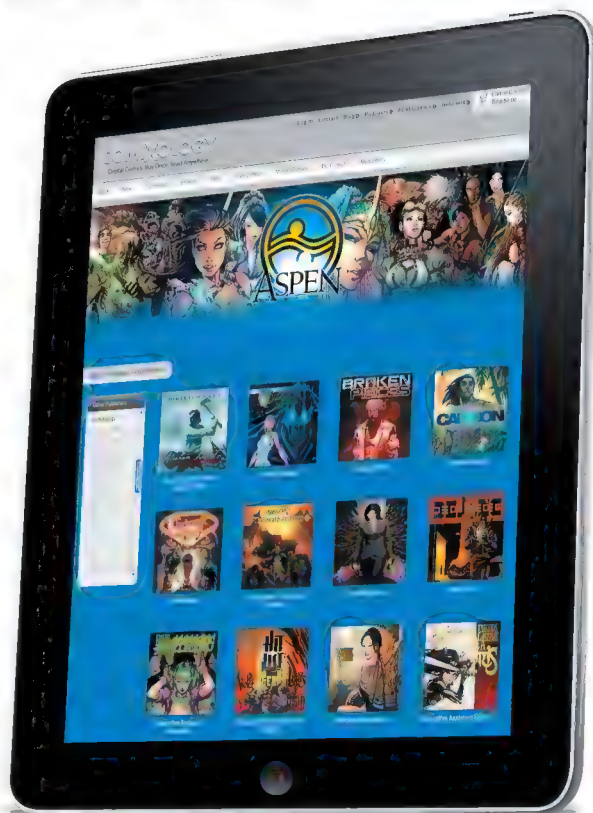
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(THE FLASH, BLACK BAT, FOSTER)

PENCILS BY:
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Lari **HANSON**
Teodora **GONZALEZ**
Josh **REED**

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#**15**
COVER A



Reed
TEGI



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#15

COVER B



The story so far...

The struggle to become something more within the confines of the Executive Assistant Academy nearly ended Daisy's life both literally and figuratively. However, her determination to transform the Academy led her to discover an inner strength she never knew she possessed and it was enough to defeat the armed forces sent by her father, Franklin, as he came this close to taking her that her true self revealed.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS

DAISY

PART 4 OF 4

WRITER
VINCE HERNANDEZ

PENICILLIS
LORI "CROSS" HANSON

FILMING
TEODORO GONZALEZ

FEATURING
JOSH REED



A: DIRECT EDITION
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B: DIRECT EDITION
PASQUALE QUALANO
TEODORO GONZALEZ



C: RETAILER INCENTIVE/
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ELIZABETH TORQUE
NEI RUFFINO

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Editor: FRANK MASTROMAURO Design and Production: MARK ROSLAN, PETER STEIGERWALD,

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EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT: ASSASSINS™ Vol. 1 Issue 15

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YOU AMUSE ME,
SO I WILL GIVE YOU TWO
OPTIONS. COME WITH ME
AND I WILL RETURN YOU TO
YOUR FATHER UNHARMED. OR,
I WILL KILL YOUR LOVER AND
STILL BRING YOU BACK--
UNCONSCIOUS.

JUST
ASK YOUR
HEADMASTER,
ALTHOUGH SHE
IS UNLIKELY TO
RESPOND.



SHE... SHE DID
NOTHING TO YOU!
SCREW YOU AND MY
FATHER! I'D RATHER DIE
THAN GIVE HIM THE
SATISFACTION.



I WON'T
LIE--

--I HOPED
FOR THAT
RESPONSE.

CHK-CHAK



GET...
NNGGH... AWAY
FROM HER!



AH, YOUR
LOVER IS BRAVE,
BUT NOT VERY
WISE.

LEAVE
HIM BE!



SHNNK

DASH

HE HAS
HEART, I'LL
GIVE HIM
THA--

A MOMENT
OF DISTRACTION CAN
LAST A LIFETIME

WHUNK

THAT IS WHAT
NERINE TAUGHT ME
AT THE ACADEMY. TURN
A MOMENT INTO AN
OPPORTUNITY

NICE TRY--

THUNK

--BUT YOU...
NNGGHH... ARE
JUST A WOMAN!
YOU THINK I NEED
A WEAPON TO
KILL YOU!

~CHOKE!~

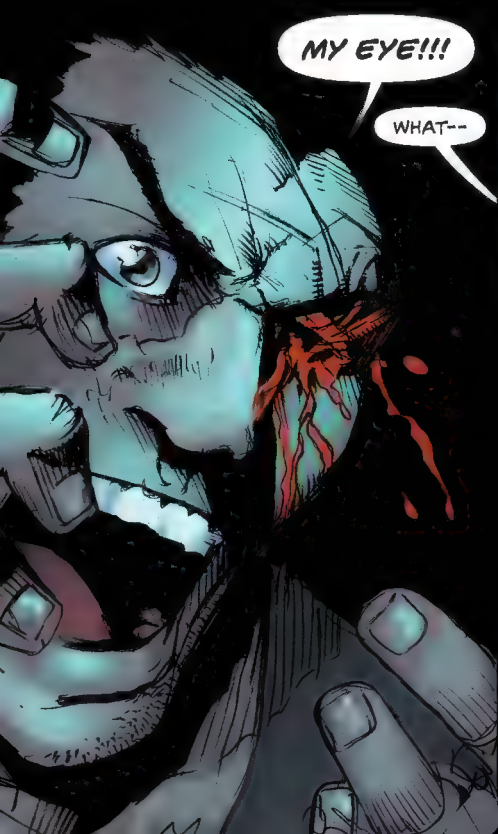
THIS MOMENT IS
LASTING LONGER THAN
EXPECTED

MY MIND
IS DARKENING-- I NEED
THE UPPER HAND

OR BETTER YET--
I NEED TO USE
ONE OF THEM



AAAAAAAAAAAAH!!!



MY EYE!!!

WHAT--



--THIS ONE?

YOU ARE DEAD!!



YOU FIRST.



SHHHLINK



HE WILL NEVER OWN ME AGAIN, DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!



NEVER! NEVER!

DAISY...



THUNK



DAISY-- ENOUGH!



DAISY, PLEASE.



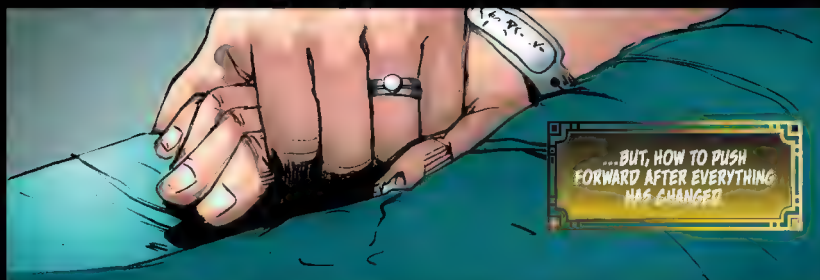
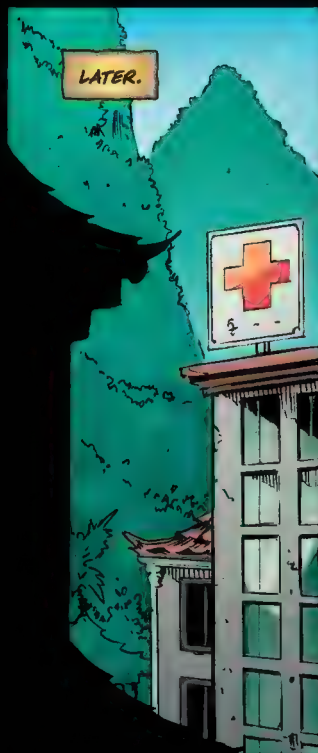
NO!



SHEN!



I WAS OUT OF CONTROL. IT WAS THEN THAT I KNEW WHAT HAD TO BE DONE.



NEW ORLEANS,
FRANKLIN ESTATE.

MY FATHER WILL NOT
BE EXPECTING ME. IN HIS MIND
I AM PROBABLY STILL THAT WEAK
LITTLE CHILD WHO RAN AWAY
HIDING FROM HIM.

FRANKLIN
ESTATE

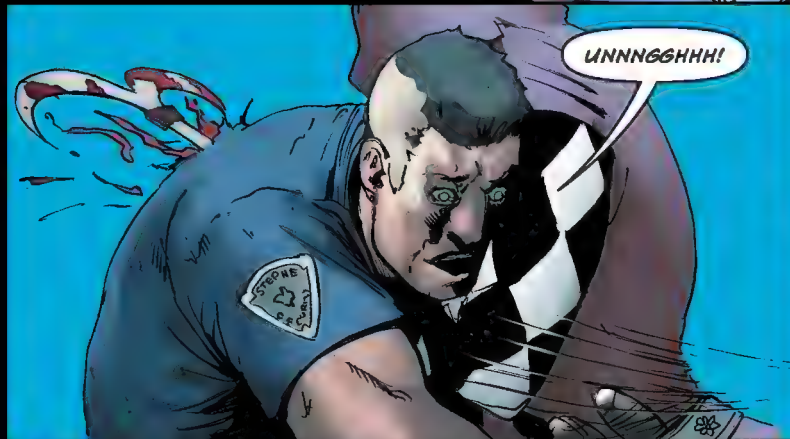
BUT, I AM
NOT HIS ONLY ENEMY...
AND HE IS ANYTHING BUT ILL
PREPARED FOR DEFENSE
AT ANY TIME.

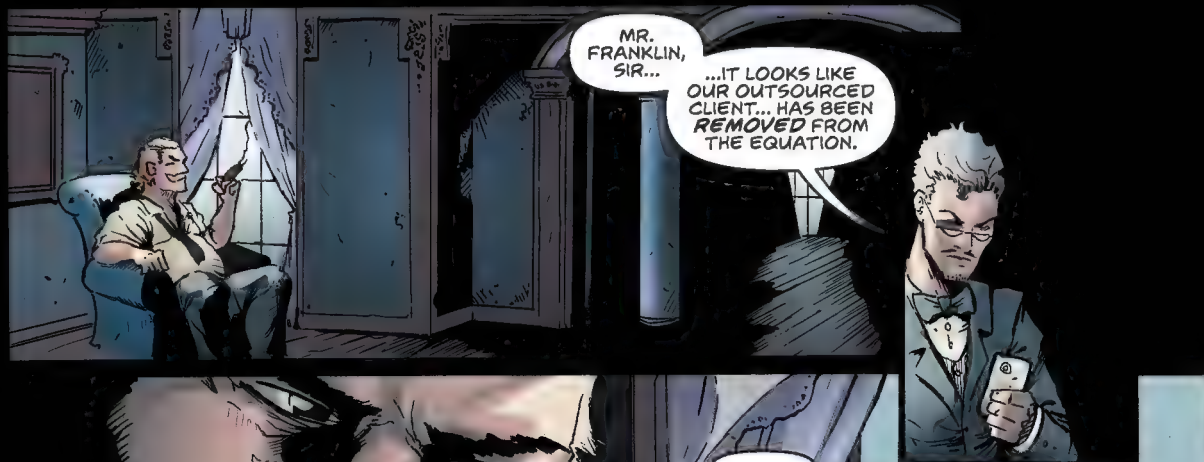
YET, I AM NOT THE CHILD
HE ONCE KNEW. NO.

HNNGHHH!

I'M SORRY.
IT'S NOT YOUR
FAULT.

--I AM SOMETHING
ALTOGETHER DIFFERENT!





MR.
FRANKLIN,
SIR...

...IT LOOKS LIKE
OUR OUTSOURCED
CLIENT... HAS BEEN
REMOVED FROM
THE EQUATION.

-SIGH-

HOW
DIFFICULT MUST
IT BE TO RETRIEVE
ONE HELPLESS
GIRL?



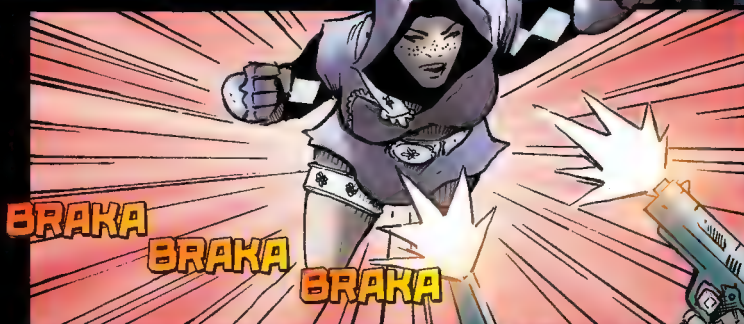
STEVENSON?
MARKS? YOU GUYS
THERE? WHAT'S
WITH THE RADIO
SILENCE?

THERE'S
MORE, SIR. MY OTHER
SOURCES TELL ME SHE
HAS LEFT CHINA. HER
WHEREABOUTS ARE...
UNKNOWN.



UP HERE.

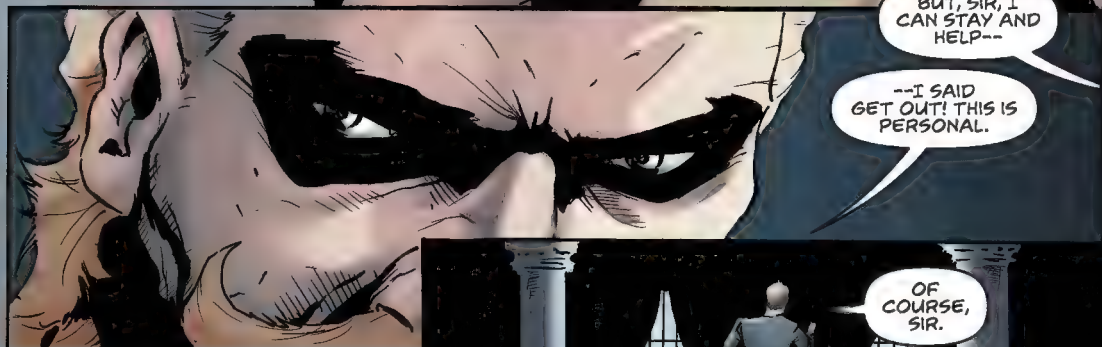
WHAT--?!



BRAKA

BRAKA

BRAKA



SHHLUNK

AlIEEEEE!

PARSONS!

HE'S DEAD.

DON'T FEIGN
PITY. YOU KNOW YOU
COULD CARE LESS. YOU
NEVER DID CARE ABOUT
ANYONE OTHER THAN
YOURSELF...

...FATHER.

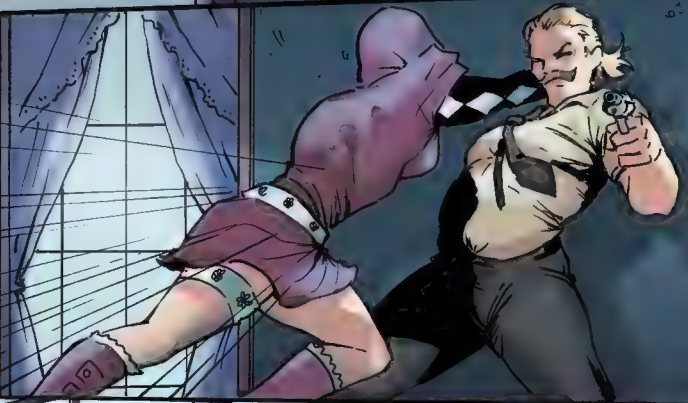
I KNEW
YOU WOULD COME
BACK, DAISY.

OF COURSE
I WOULD. I AM YOUR
POSSESSION, RIGHT?
YOU OWN ME, RIGHT? YOU
WOULD NEVER ALLOW
SHEN AND I TO LIVE
IN PEACE.

IS THAT THE
BOY'S NAME? SHEN?
YOU DISGUST ME.

DON'T WORRY,
I AGREE WITH YOU
NOW. IT'S THE TRUTH.
YOU HAVE ALWAYS
OWNED ME---

--AND ALL
THAT COMES
WITH IT!



YOU THINK--

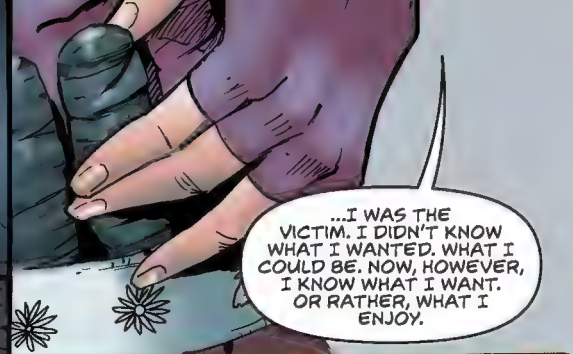
CRACK

--YOU THINK
YOU CAN RETURN
HOME IN SOME SILLY
OUTFIT WITH THAT JUNGLE
KNIFE AND BLAME ME FOR
THE PITIFUL EXCUSE
YOU CALL A LIFE?!

YOU LOVE
PLAYING THE VICTIM,
HOPING FOR SOMEONE
TO SAVE YOU. I TRIED
TO TEACH YOU TO GROW
UP! NOT TO RUN AWAY
AT THE SLIGHTEST
PROBLEM. TO BE
SOMEONE!



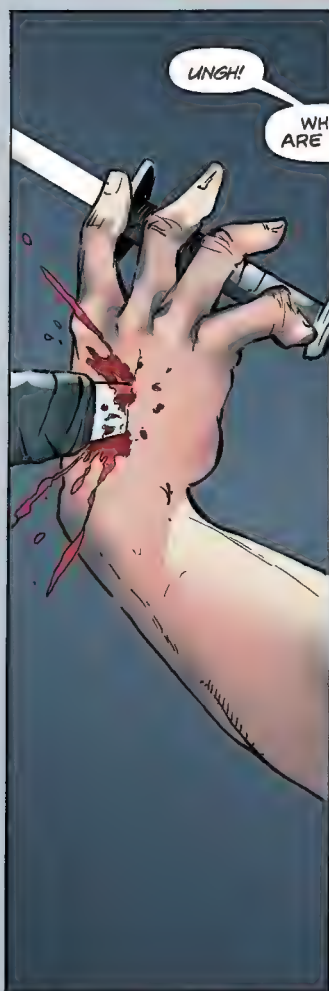
FOR THE LONGEST TIME, I THOUGHT YOU WERE WRONG. BUT, I HAVE REALIZED NOW THAT YOU WERE RIGHT, FATHER...



...I WAS THE VICTIM. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT I WANTED. WHAT I COULD BE. NOW, HOWEVER, I KNOW WHAT I WANT. OR RATHER, WHAT I ENJOY.

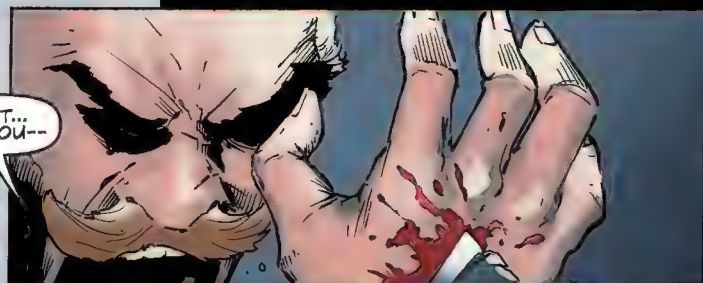


DAISY!



UNGH!

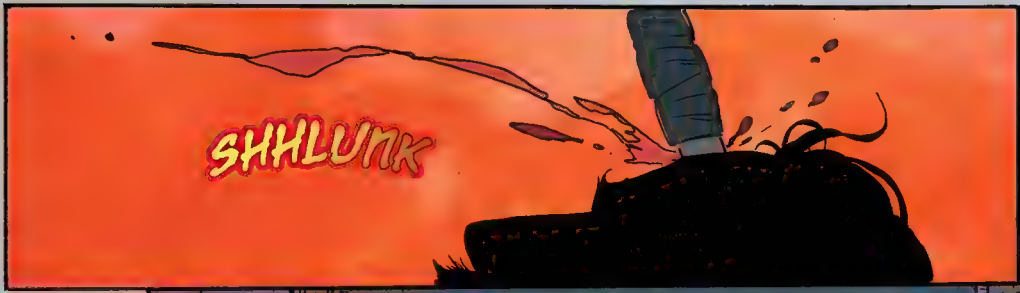
WHAT... ARE YOU--



--AHH!

I'M CLEANSING MYSELF FATHER. ALL THIS TIME, YOU TOLD EVERYONE THAT I WAS THE PROBLEM, NOT YOU. THAT I WAS CRAZY. AND THE TRUTH IS...

...I AM. AND I LIKE IT.





...BUT, I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.



SHEN.



HEY, YOU...
...I THOUGHT I'D LOST YOU.

I WILL ALWAYS BE YOURS, SHEN, YOU KNOW THAT. HOW IS THE PAIN?



BEARABLE, ALTHOUGH I CAN'T MOVE MUCH. THE PAIN MEDS HAVE SOFTENED MY SENSES AND THE GUNSHOT TOOK CARE OF THE REST. WHEN I WOKE UP, AND YOU WERE GONE, I THOUGHT... I GUESS I THOUGHT I PUSHED YOU TOO HARD. I THOUGHT IT WAS ALL OVER.



SHEN... AT THE ACADEMY... I... DISCOVERED A SIDE OF ME I WAS AFRAID TO CONFRONT, BUT ALWAYS KNEW EXISTED BENEATH THE SURFACE.

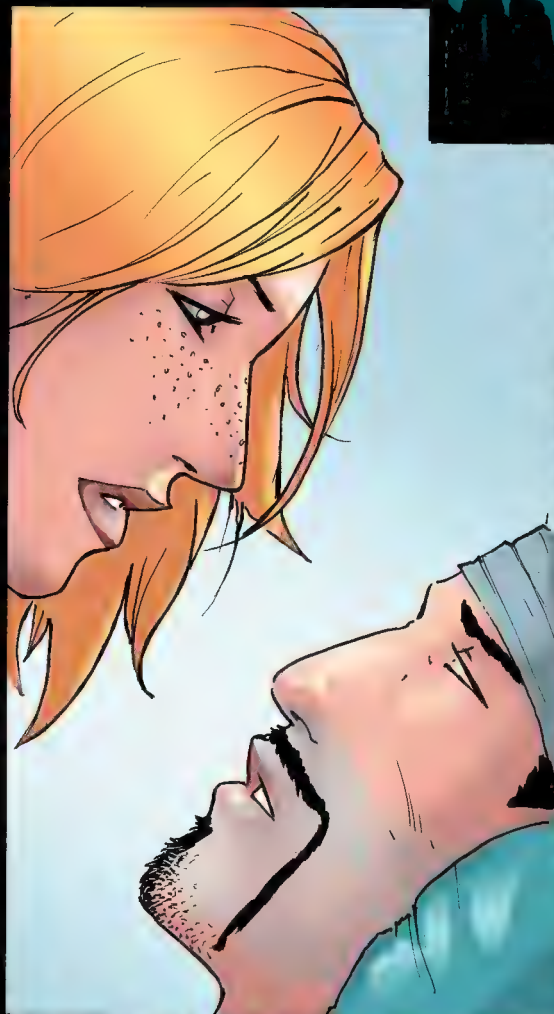
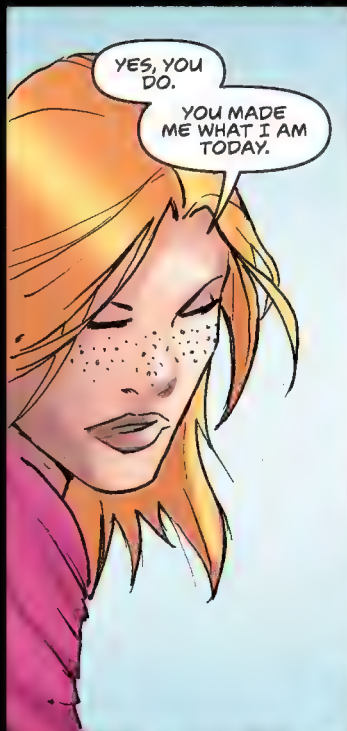
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

I MEAN... I AM NOT THE PERSON YOU FELL IN LOVE WITH...



...I AM SOMETHING DIFFERENT ALTOGETHER.

I DON'T... I DON'T UNDERSTAND.





PLEASE...
YOU DON'T HAVE
TO DO THIS.



YES,
I DO.

IT'S PART
OF MY HEALING
PROCESS. I CAN
NEVER LIVE A NORMAL
LIFE. WHAT'S INSIDE ME...
WHAT DRIVES ME... IS
INESCAPABLE. YOU
TAUGHT ME THIS
LESSON.



BUT, I'VE
ALWAYS LOVED
YOU.



AND I THE
SAME.



SHHHKKK



GOODBYE...
AND THANK YOU,
MY LOVE.



FRENCH QUARTER.

I LIVE FOR
THIS FEELING...

BAR €



...THE FEAR. THE FINITE
FEELING OF DEATH-- IT IS
MY ONLY SOLACE...

MY FATHER THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY. HE
WAS RIGHT. MY LOVER THOUGHT I COULD
BE MORE. HE TOO, WAS CORRECT...



YOU BLEED
MORE THAN MY
USUALS.



MMM.



I DON'T
MIND.

...ALL I'VE EVER
KNOWN IS PAIN, AND
SUFFERING...



...IT'S WHO I AM...

...AND YOU CAN'T
CHANGE WHAT YOU
TRULY ARE INSIDE.



From the Creators that brought you *Witchblade* & *Fathom*: **David Wohl** (*Witchblade*, *Aphrodite IX*) and **Michael Turner** (*Fathom*, *Soulfire*)

**EXECUTIVE
ASSISTANT**
A

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#16

**BLOOD
ORIGIN**
PART 1 OF 3

**An All New Story Arc
Begins Next Issue!**

WRITTEN BY: VINCE HERNANDEZ
PENCILS BY: JORDAN GUNDERSON
INKS BY: CHARLIE MOK
COLORS: TEODORO GONZALEZ



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